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UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES

BULLETIN

THIRD QUARTER - 1956

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THE GROWTH OF A BIBLE SOCIETY [1]

How it happened in Britain

by **William J. Platt**

The Bible Society as an ecumenical organisation

EVER since the first generation of Christians, one of their concerns has been the compilation, the preservation and the study of the Canon of Holy Scripture. Thus, while it would be true to say that the Bible Society movement began in 1804, the work of Bible Societies is in the true apostolical succession of Christian tradition. Nevertheless, the world-wide growth of the modern Bible Society movement is undoubtedly one of the results of the Reformation, which brought a new emphasis on the Bible as the birth-right of every Christian, and increased the importance of the layman in church affairs. These two factors were re-emphasised in the evangelical movement in Britain, after which were born some of the great modern missionary societies, including the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Another factor in the foundation of Bible Society work, is the world expansion that was taking place in trade and exploration, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. To Christian people this meant that religion too had to be proclaimed to the uttermost parts of the earth. Indeed Wilberforce and Granville Sharp, and others who were emancipators of African slaves while Zacharay MacCauley was first Governor of Sierra Leone, were amongst the first General Committee of the B.F.B.S., their interests being world-wide.

These factors—the centrality of the Bible, the power of the layman and the world-wide outlook—all contributed to the missionary vision which has always been an intrinsic feature of the parent Society. Its General Committee consisted of 15 Anglican members, 15 Free Churchmen together with 6 foreign gentlemen resident in or near London and who were full members. All were laymen, although leading clergy and ministers were made Vice-Presidents and were also full members. At a recent gathering in London, when Bishop Dibelius of Berlin was the honoured guest of the British Council of Churches, and representatives of various Christian international organisations were present, the General Secretary of the Council of Churches called upon the representative of what he called "the oldest ecumenical organisation in Britain" to speak : that was the representative of the B.F.B.S.

The same spontaneity, springing from the life of the evangelical movement, can be noted in the formation of self-governing and voluntary committees, called "Auxiliary Committee", founded in every large city and town throughout Britain during the nineteenth century. Their function was not only to raise money for the circulation of the Scriptures but as a first concern in evangelism to see that their own locality had Scriptures available at a price ordinary people could afford to pay. In other words, one of their first tasks was to see that the Bible was in the homes of their own townsmen. Funds available after this task was accomplished were sent as "free contributions" to the headquarters of the Bible Society in London to help in the world-wide work of Scripture distribution.

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1. Text of an address given at the U.B.S Regional Conference, Boldern, 1955.

Organisation

Some 1,500 Auxiliary Committees therefore now form the main basis of support for the B.F.B.S., and generally speaking they are constituted by the same Christian people who run the affairs of the local churches. Local clergy, and as far as possible a lay representative from each local church, attend these committees, which organise something like 10,000 meetings a year. It is their aim to get a collector to work within each church. Once a year a "Bible Sunday" (generally on the Second Sunday in Advent) is set aside in thousands of churches throughout Britain, when sermons are preached about the centrality of the Bible for the Christian life and about the work of the Society. These efforts are headed up in an annual town meeting on behalf of the Society, at which quite often the civic head of the town or some other prominent citizen presides.

In addition to this general organisation, gift boxes are scattered thoughout the country amongst Christian congregations, special gift envelopes are often put into pews on Bible Sunday, pageants and plays about the Bible Society's work are arranged, exhibitions and films are organised from time to time. Membership of the Society is also emphasised. Special attention is paid to work among youth and in the schools of the country, and eight full-time women workers are responsible for promotional work amongst women. In addition to this there are something like 20 full-time ordained organising secretaries who move around the country to stimulate and direct this home activity.

Co-operation with the churches

Over the years, the Society has not only offered a platform where-by all the churches could come together to remember their common heritage, but it has also offered to them a common task, and through its work the Society has underlined the sovereign place that should be given to the Canon of Holy Scriptures in the life of the churches. In recent years too, due to the "Bible Speaks Today" campaign organised by the British Council of Churches under the chairmanship of the Bishop of London, and stimulated and financed by the Bible Society, these factors have been re-emphasised.

In the ordinary Bible Society activity, emphasis is put on Bible study in youth conferences, and more recently in the drawing together of bodies of laymen from the churches for weekend residential conferences, to explore with lecturers from colleges (such as Professor Kilpatrick of Oxford, Professor Snaith of Leeds, Dr. Rieu of London and the Rev. J. B. Phillips), the relevancy of the message of the truth about God and life contained in Holy Writ—particularly at a time when the Bible is, by and large, a forgotten book in many of the areas of national life.

Sacrificial giving

The work of the missionary societies and the Bible Society has been greatly helped in the British Isles by the fact that we are a people born to the sea, with our eyes—from the point of view of exploration and trade—on the ends of the earth. In a small church I know, numbering some 200 communicant members, after paying all its own expenses of pastorate and upkeep, and

with no grants from any government source, sums contributed amount to £2 per head given to overseas missions with 5/- per head annually to the work of the Bible Society. These sums are not gathered by any system of levy but are the spontaneous offerings of the people. Situated then as we are as an island people, missionary work has become an integral part of our conception of what a Bible Society should be.

It is true, of course, that the system of "auxiliaries" or local committees works best where populations are fairly dense, but in our conditions it gives a security and a stability to Bible Society work due to the fact that it is representative of and shares in the life of the churches. Doubtless a case could be made out for what might be called "high power publicity" in Bible Society affairs, but for us it would appear that nothing can replace the steady nurture of and promotional work amongst Christian people concerning Bible Society work carried on through the ordinary channels of the churches, by which Christian people are drawn together in thousands of special Bible Society meetings.

THE CHURCHES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

by **Robert T. Taylor**

THE American Bible Society carries forward its work with the co-operation and assistance of the churches of the United States. There can be no simple statement of this association because it differs with each church group. Indeed, any discussion of the relationship between the churches and the American Bible Society must be preceded by some explanation of the complexity of church organizations in the United States.

A practical demonstration of the intricacies of the church situation is the problem in semantics present in any statement about American churches. We should not refer to the "Protestant churches" for there are some in one great denomination who object to this general classification. We should not speak of the "denominations" for some of the great church bodies are not denominations. For example, the Disciples of Christ can be properly described only as a brotherhood or communion. The Baptists constitute associations and conventions, but it is incorrect to describe the American Baptist Convention as the Baptist Church.

There are in the United States about 60,000,000 Protestants. An accurate count is difficult because some Protestant groups will not issue membership figures and one presumably fairly large group does not believe in counting the number of members at all. Some groups count all children born to church members while others count as members of the church only adults who have been confirmed. There are more than 200 denominations or associations. About 55 of these are of sufficient size to be regarded as "major".

The American Bible Society is supported by and maintains a co-operative relationship with each one of these 55 or more major groups and with most of the smaller groups. There is, of course, considerable variety in the nature of

this relationship. Yet in practically every denomination or association the American Bible Society is recognised in one way or another as the official agency of the church to aid in translation, to publish, to distribute and to encourage the use of the Holy Scriptures.

The Society is the only inter-denominational organisation in which all of the major Protestant church groups in the United States participate. This participation is manifested in many ways, of which only a few can be described in this article.

The Advisory Council

Each year representatives of some 55 church groups meet at Bible House in New York in what is known as the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society. The method of selecting the representatives depends on the relationship of the denomination to the Society. For example, the American Bible Society is a board of the Methodist Church and the church appoints those who are to attend Advisory Council. The Society is an approved agency of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, but there is no official machinery of the church to designate a representative to the Advisory Council. The president of the denomination is invited and one or two leaders in the church. With some other denominations the representation is quite unofficial in fact, and yet is official in ultimate result.

During the two days of the Advisory Council the members study future plans, consult on procedure and review the budget for the coming year. A Findings Committee of members of the Council drafts recommendations which are presented for discussion and possible adoption by the full Advisory Council. The 1955 report said in part :

"We, the members of the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society representing fifty-five denominations, are brought together in this 37th meeting, November 29-30, 1955, because we have the Book and because it is our common mission to give it to those who do not have it.

"In summing up the meeting of these two days, we wish to express the following :

1. We wish to commend the American Bible Society, its Board of Managers, and the Secretaries for the clear administrative policies which govern it and which are constantly increasing the stature of the organisation. We commend the Society also for the keen sense of direction and vision which motivates it in carrying out the historic purposes of the Society to translate, publish and distribute the Bible without note or comment.

2. We express complete confidence in the Society in developing a programme commensurate with the challenging times in which we live. The co-operation of the American Bible Society with the United Bible Societies in effecting a worldwide strategy for this important work is given full endorsement.

3. We commend the Society for the careful manner in which the funds which come to its hands are handled, invested, used and reported. We are impressed by the detailed accounting which is made available to the members of the Advisory Council.

4. We call attention to the fact that the American Bible Society is related to the denominations in a unique manner and *is in a real sense the agency of the denominations* in the task of translating, publishing and distributing God's Word. We recognise also the indispensable service which the Society renders to the denominations in their respective missionary tasks. We rejoice in the privilege which is ours to work together in such a joint endeavour. We recognise that if the Churches were to do this work individually, the costs would be immeasurably higher. Hence we acknowledge the responsibility of the denominations in supporting the Society and in accepting the increases which come in the budget of the Society due to emergency needs and expanded programme."

Support of the American Bible Society

Even as the denominations differ in organisation, so they differ in methods of support of the American Bible Society. The basic methods are as follows :

1. In official budget on a percentage basis
2. In official budget on definite grant
3. Officially designated for annual offering
4. Miscellaneous methods, chiefly endorsing the Society and urging liberality by the churches.

It would be difficult to choose which method of support is preferable.

When the Society is included in the denominational budget, it feels the pressures of all of the boards of the church which are ever seeking more money. Being small compared to the great size of the mission boards, it is often difficult for the Society to secure an increase in appropriation. For example, the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., contributes $75,000 per year to the American Bible Society out of more than $16,000,000 used by the Presbyterian Church for benevolent work.

When the Society is not included in the denominational budget it is faced with the task of securing gifts from each local church. The cost would be prohibitive to have speakers go from church to church seeking offerings. So the small staff of the Society has to devise ways to solicit the help of the denominations in encouraging these offerings. Some denominational leaders develop definite programmes for securing an annual offering.

Whatever the method of support, certain promotional contacts are maintained. For example, each year representatives of the American Bible Society speak in the national conventions, synods or assemblies of the denominations in the United States. The District and Division Secretaries appear in hundreds of denominational meetings on the state and county level. Exhibits are furnished for national meetings and literally hundreds of area meetings.

Nearly 1,200 American Bible Society chairmen report for the Society on a volunteer basis at least once a year in other church area meetings.

Articles concerning the work of the Bible Society appear in church papers and the Society maintains a regular service of contacting the more than 500 journals of religion which are published in the United States.

Although the income of the Society is supplemented by about 350,000 individual gifts each year, the long time and dependable support of the American Bible Society is from the churches.

The American Bible Society has also led the way in the promotion of annuities. Most denominational boards have a plan by which an individual can place a sum of money with a church agency. The person giving the money is paid an income during his lifetime. Upon his death the residue goes to a church agency. This makes it possible for many older people to assure for themselves a safe income during all the days they live, and at the same time leave their money for Christian work when they die.

Perhaps the best description is that it is another way of making a will. The American Bible Society has had long experience in the field, and Dr. Gilbert Darlington—Treasurer of the Society—has been Chairman of the Inter-denominational Committee on Gift Annuities for many years.

Distribution of the Scriptures

The churches depend on the Society for adequate supplies of missionary Scriptures in the United States. Last year the American Bible Society supplied Scriptures in more than 90 languages for use in the U.S.A. It furnished 7,388,664 Gospels, 894,873 New Testaments and 554,843 Bibles in inexpensive editions for use in hospitals, rescue missions, newly-founded Bible Schools and programmes of Bible study and evangelism.

The churches also look to the Bible Society for Scriptures for the blind and for talking book records for those who cannot read with their finger tips.

The District and Division Secretaries of the American Bible Society are experts in the use of the Scriptures in evangelism and in assisting the churches in the development of effective plans of Scripture distribution. Through the churches they recruit Bible distributors and colporteurs so that in every state, and often county by county, trained people are at work in distributing Scriptures as representatives of the Bible Society.

To these Bible Society workers there are added the home missionaries themselves, the pastors, the evangelists, Sunday school missionaries, Indian leaders, migrant workers, a whole army of consecrated people who are searching America for souls and ministering to forgotten individuals and groups.

The purpose of the Society is to increase this use of the Scriptures in evangelism. In a very real sense, every church, every pastor, every genuine Christian layman has a home mission field in his neighbourhood. The distribution of the Scriptures is the responsibility of the churches and the individuals who make up the churches. One of the closest and most gratifying church relationships of the Society is in the distribution of the Scriptures in the United States.

The churches also depend on the American Bible Society in co-operation with other national Bible Societies for the translation, publication and distribution of the Scriptures in the areas of the world where their missionaries are at work. There is no need to elaborate on this extensive service to the churches, for it is familiar to all readers of the BULLETIN.

Encouragement of Use

In an increasing measure the churches look to the Bible Society for assistance in encouragement of the use of the Bible.

In 1955 the Society supplied free material to 37,345 churches for use in Worldwide Bible reading.

The Audio-Visual Department of the Society makes available to the churches exhibits, film strips and motion pictures on the use, importance and history of the Bible. The major film, "Our Bible, How it came to us", was produced by the Society because the churches had expressed a recurring need and desire for a film on the history of the Bible. For the same reason film strips from "Our Bible, How it came to us" are now being prepared for use with students in Sunday schools and Church schools.

The Bible Society and the Churches work together

The churches depend on the Bible Society for the services described above and for many, many more. The Society depends on the churches for support, for the effective distribution of the Scriptures and for the encouragement of their use. This close relationship with the denominations is the major reason why the Society largely abandoned the auxillary system at the beginning of this century. Experience has demonstrated that Bible Society work in the U.S.A. is both more efficient and more economically administered when carried on in co-operation with the churches. In the U.S.A. the maintaining of separate auxiliaries would be expensive and wasteful.

So the Society works with the churches in Bible work at home and abroad. It is of a truth the servant of the churches. As one distinguished churchman said : "If there were no American Bible Society, the churches of the United States would have to get together today to start such a Society."

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS AND THE VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE

by **F. Muliyii**

THE Protestants were not the pioneers in Christian missions to the lands of the East. The Roman Catholic missions had come to India and to the Far East under the patronage of Portuguese merchant adventurers. The story of the Nestorian Missions from the Near East to China long prior to the age of colonisation is an obscure chapter of Church history. The ancient Church in Travancore, of whose existence the outside world was unaware till the advent of the Portuguese, dates back to very early times. "History teaches us", says W. J. Bradnock in his recent book 'New Light from New Translations', "that the Church without the Bible is doomed. The mighty Church of North Africa, once adorned by saints and scholars such as Tertullian, Cyprian and Augustine, fell before the onslaught of paganism because it was content to remain a Latin Church. It sought no entry into the hearts of the people by the use of the mother tongue. Although we have no certain knowledge, it is probable that the early Church in China died out for the same reason."

The revival in the Syrian Church during the last century must be attributed in part to the translation of the Scriptures in Malayalam. Mar Deonysius, the Metropolitan Bishop, is reported to have said to Claudius Buchanan, one of the chaplains of the East India Company on his visit to Travancore, "Our churches languish for want of Scriptures." Therefore, as the Church Missionary Society sent a mission of help to Travancore, its chief contribution to the Syrian Church was the New translation in Malayalam.

But all this is quite a recent story. Neither the Roman Catholic missions, which arrived in India two centuries before the Protestant missions, nor the ancient Church in Travancore, ever felt the need of translating the Scriptures into the languages of the people. That this task had to await the coming of the Protestant missions is not altogether surprising. The rediscovery of the Bible as "the people's book" is undoubtedly the most significant result of the Reformation. The Protestant missions which stood in the direct line of Reformation tradition would naturally regard the translation of the Scriptures into Indian tongues a prior responsibility. Therefore, even as they were spelling out the new languages, the missionaries sought to transpose the Bible into them.

One of the first languages of the East into which the Bible was rendered is Tamil. The earliest version in Tamil is the result of the labours of three missionaries of the Danish Mission, Ziegenbalg, Schultze and Fabricius. In the month of January the churches of the Lutheran Federation commemorated the 250th year of the advent of the Protestant missions to India. But the occasion was greater than the anniversary of the Danish Missionary Society. "For herein is the saying true, One soweth and another reapeth". The missionary societies that followed have entered into the labour of the pioneers. In no other field of labour has this continuity been more manifest than in that of the Bible translation. Ziegenbalg sat on the floor alongside of the children of the village school and traced the outlines of Tamil characters on the sand. This incident is typical of the attitude of the early missionaries to the languages of India, and to the arduous task of translating the Scriptures into the intricacies of their idiom. They took a genuine interest in the languages because theirs was a real concern for the people. A more characteristically Indian attitude towards learning can hardly be imagined.

Ziegenbalg completed the translation of the New Testament within five years of his arrival in India and in 1715 he printed it on a press sent out from London by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge. From the beginning the translation of the Scriptures was a co-operative undertaking. Nowhere is the essential unity of the Protestant missions more manifest than in the work of translation. Well might the great Jesuit Father Beschi scoff at the crudities of this first translation. But a new area of the earth had been won for the Kingdom.

Ziegenbalg died before he could complete the translation of the Old Testament into Tamil, but Schultze finished the work begun by his great predecessor. A revision of Ziegenbalg's Tamil New Testament and Schultze's Old Testament was undertaken by Fabricius. It took the latter twenty years' careful and painstaking work to complete the New Testament version and four years later, in 1777, the Old Testament was ready for printing. It is said of him "that he crept through the original text of the Bible on his knees as if

he were himself a poor sinner and mendicant, carefully weighing each word to see how it might best be rendered." Such is the excellence of his version that it is still the basis for new revisions.

Since those days, the British and Foreign Bible Society has sought to co-ordinate existing translations and to make new translations into other languages. The Union Version of the Tamil Bible is an attempt to provide a uniform text for all Tamil-speaking people. Ziegenbalg did not know that portions of the Bible had been rendered into Tamil even before he undertook the great work by which he is most remembered. But the Lutherans still cherish the version which had been hallowed by the memories of these early apostles to India.

This story of the Tamil Bible is not an isolated episode. It is substantially true of all the Indian versions. One could recall the labours of Carey, Henry Martyn and countless others who looked upon the task of conveying the Word "even as the original eyewitnesses delivered it unto us" to every people in their own tongue, as a holy calling.

The early translations of the Bible were far from being perfect. Strict literalism spoiled the idiom and made the language appear vulgar and decidedly inferior to the Hindu Scriptures which, in their Sanskrit originals or in their vernacular translations, ranked as classics. The intellectual Hindu scoffed at the clumsiness of its style, and the awkwardness of its expressions. This lapse in the language and diction of the vernacular translations is indefensible by the argument that the Bible was the Book of the common man and written in his language, or that it is peculiar in its very conception and, being the communication of the Holy Spirit, is bound to break all the rules of human language. These assumptions do less than justice to the language of the common man and go completely astray in regarding the Bible as a unique linguistic phenomenon. It must be remembered in this context that the Indian languages were not primitive or rudimentary and that literature as an art had reached a high degree of refinement. The Bhakti movement that preceded the advent of Christianity in India had enriched vernacular literature, and Sanskrit—like Greek and Latin in the West— had always remained the perennial source of literacy modes or patterns. It was not till later, when the intellectual classes were able to read the Book in the Authorised Version, that the greatness of the Bible, its dignity and depth were recognised.

The work of translating the Bible is a task that must be undertaken in every generation, and only when the Bible becomes integrated with the life and thought of the community will its rendering come nearer to the idiom of the people and the human scandal that has been introduced into it be removed. This task now devolves upon the Church in India. We need to recognise the necessity of revisions, and ever seek to bring a version into closer conformity with the assured results of scholarship, as the growing experience of the India Church brings a deeper appreciation of the meaning of the Scriptures.

NEWS FROM ALL THE WORLD.

Belgium

Circulation in 1955 in Belgium, it was reported at the 1956 annual meeting of the *Belgian Bible Society*, just about doubled the figures of the previous year: 56,000 as against 28,000. The Society's colporteurs sold 57% of these Scriptures; 10% of the total distribution was carried out by voluntary colporteurs. Over 40,000 Portions were circulated as against 16,000 the year before. In addition, the Belgian Bible Society has sold abroad, mainly to Bible Societies in France, over 12,000 volumes, for the most part complete Bibles.

It was also reported that collections raised in Belgium increased from 77,000 Belgian francs in 1954 to 155,000 Belgian francs (over £1,100). The work in Belgium is supported financially to a large extent by funds from abroad, of which the American Bible Society is providing about three-quarters.

*

The Belgian Bible Society has resumed the publication of its News Bulletin under the title: "Cahiers de la Société biblique belge." Number four, which appeared in June, contained information about the work in Belgium, a Bible Study by one of the colporteurs, a review of the press comments on the Gutenberg Exhibition (cf. BULLETIN No. 25, pp. 25-26) and news of Bible Society work in the world. There are two editions of this 36-page illustrated bulletin, one in French and one in Flemish. The attractive cover was designed by Claude Richez, a well-known publicity artist, whose connections with the Belgian Bible Society in recent years have been very close.

*

Protestant Christians in the Flemish part of Belgium held their Bible Day in Antwerp this year on 1st May. Every year an increasing number of visitors is welcomed. As usual this year the meetings in the morning and afternoon were held in the largest Protestant church in Antwerp and aimed at stimulating and deepening evangelical life. In the evening the meeting in a large hall in the town provided a testimony to the Gospel to the people of Antwerp. This meeting was attended by about 1,900 visitors, many of whom did not belong to any Protestant church. There is always a Bible stand at these meetings, where people are given the opportunity of buying a Bible or a New Testament. Often, during the days following the Bible Day itself, people come to the house of the president of the Committee (who is in charge of the agency of the Belgian Bible Society in Antwerp) in order to buy a Bible. For that purpose his address is given on the song sheets used at the meetings.

Brazil

The first complete Bible published in the country by the *Bible Society of Brazil* came off the press in the spring of this year. In this edition of 100,000 copies, the new official orthography has been used.

In the meantime the revision of the D'Almeida version has been progressing steadily and it is expected that the manuscript of the Old Testament will be completed by October. The two main collaborators in this revision, Prof. Dr. P. Schelp and the Rev. A. de Goncalvez, have already published a series of articles and spoken on numerous occasions about the work they are engaged on, and it is expected that the judicious manner in which the Bible Society of Brazil has kept the churches in Brazil informed of the development of the work, will greatly facilitate the launching of the new text.

Plans are in hand also for the preparation of a limited concordance (about 320 pages) following the model which was worked out by the A.B.S. Translations Department for the Spanish Reina-Valera revision.

Parallels will also be given in the new Bible and will follow the system used in the Spanish revised text.

*

Circulation in Brazil last year jumped from 1.5 millions to 2.5 millions. Due to shortage of supplies, less than 100,000 complete Bibles were circulated. "Church membership of all the major denominations increases month by month," writes Mr. Morris, the B.F.B.S. co-operating secretary in Brazil, "and in many instances church accommodation is utterly inadequate to provide seating space (or sometimes even standing space) for those who desire to hear the Gospel." The very large increase in circulation is due to the impetus given in Scripture distribution by church and mission organisations during the course of periodical evangelistic campaigns.

Local contributions towards the work show an increase of almost 40% over last year's figures and reached 1,390,000 cruzeiros (about £27,000). During the five years preceding 1955 the Brazilian Bible Society met 15% of the costs of the work, the A.B.S. and B.F.B.S. covering respectively 60% and 25%.

*

With a view to the great possibilities of evangelistic advance through Scripture distribution, the World Gospel Crusade, an American mass distribution organisation, is planning the distribution of one million Gospels of St. John in Brazil.

Canada

A special effort in Scripture distribution was carried out recently in the area of the Manitoba Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Canada. The following account is taken from notes prepared by the Rev. W. H. Davis, secretary of that Auxiliary, and gives some indication of the method followed in this effort :

Colportage in the Manitoba Auxiliary is the responsibility of the local branches. It is believed that the work of Scripture distribution can be carried out most effectively when done by persons working and living in the community, who from their personal contacts can discover what the needs are and meet them. In this way colportage is a continuous process throughout the year—not only during the limited period of a visiting colporteur—and the branch can direct and supervise the colportage policy and practice.

The branches are voluntary groups, organized to carry out the aims of the Bible Society in local communities, and have a deep concern to observe the Society's principles of distribution—without doctrinal emphasis or comment and with selling prices at a rate which people can afford. The branches are encouraged to appoint a colporteur-agent to visit homes systematically, under the advice and counsel of a minister willing to help the work in this way. The colporteur-agent also arranges Bible displays and exhibits on special occasions, as planned by the branch, and deals with Scripture needs passed on to him by church groups or other organizations. From his side the colporteur-agent draws the attention of the clergy to any individuals he has met during the course of his visits, who wish for biblical or doctrinal teaching.

The price charged for the Scriptures varies according to the circumstances of the individual, and in some cases no charge is made. The headquarters office of the Auxiliary, in Winnipeg, prepares consignments of sample Scriptures for the branches on request when special campaigns

are being planned, either for home visiting or for exhibitions. A catalogue giving the full range of Scriptures, with prices and samples of actual size types, is also sent, together with a copy of "The Gospel in Many Tongues." This serves the two purposes of keeping the branches fully informed of the complete range of Scriptures—type, binding, languages—and of avoiding the accumulation of dormant stocks in the local branches.

The Auxiliary issues a credential card to each colporteur-agent appointed by the branches. This card indicates the area in which the colporteur-agent is authorised to work, gives his number for ordering and accounting purposes and the names of all the branches in the area. Some colporteur-agents cover the areas of five or six branches and call on each home as often as twice a year.

Scriptures are provided to the colporteur-agent at 25% discount on missionary editions and 20% discount on luxury editions for resale at retail price. Other Scriptures may be had without discount for sale at reduced prices or as gifts, according to the request of the branch. Requests for quantities of Scriptures at reduced prices or as gifts are referred to the Auxiliary Board for consideration. Gospels may be purchased for door to door free distribution at half the cost price. It is emphasized that commissions cannot be passed on to purchasers. These are provided for specific purposes : to advertise and promote this work of the branch, to provide something towards the expense involved, and to give encouragement to the individual engaged in this part-time voluntary missionary activity.

" Branch colportage " is designed to place the control of Scripture distribution in the hands of the churches and organisations in the area under a joint representative board. The work is thus planned, co-ordinated and controlled by those who already have an interest in, dependence upon, and responsibility for this book and the Bible Society is able in this way to strengthen the efforts and work of the whole church by making the Scriptures readily accessible for all the people, so that no one need be without, and the church's work goes on unhampered by any lack of Scriptures.

Congo

The Rev. A. W. Marthinson, B.F.B.S. agent for the Congo basin, has completed a 6,000 miles tour around the country. The journey took him about three months, during which time 50 mission stations belonging to 20 different societies were visited.

The evangelical population in the Congo is about the same as in Brazil, 2 millions out of a population of 15 millions, the latter being about a quarter of the total population in Brazil. " The need for Scriptures is great all over," writes Mr. Marthinson. " My budget for next year is 35,000 Bibles, 90,000 New Testaments and at least 200,000 Portions in twenty languages . . . . Congo is wide open for the Gospel."

Denmark

The *Danish Bible Society* is now printing two new Bibles, one with a new translation of the Apocrypha, the other with the new Danish orthography as lately adopted by the Ministry of Education. Editions with the old orthography will still be issued for the older generation.

A magazine illustrated Gospel of Luke is in the press, using the A.B.S. set of illustrations. The printing is done free of charge by the Danish newspaper "Berlingske Tidende".

The Danish Bible Society is also taking over the cost of printing the new translation of the Bible in the language of the Faröë Islands. The

translation of the Old Testament has now been completed. The New Testament was done some years ago.

Egypt

"A few months ago," reports Mr. Roe, the B.F.B.S. Secretary for the Bible Lands Agency South, "the manager of our Cairo sales depot was asked to submit specimen copies of popular editions of the Arabic Scriptures to the Welfare Department of the Egyptian Army. Shortly afterwards this department placed an order for 1,000 Arabic Pocket New Testaments and these were despatched immediately from the depot to the Army headquarters. The books are to be distributed free to Christian recruits in the Egyptian Army and the full cost is being met by the Army authorities. It is the first time in our experience that the Army Command has at its own expense made such provision for Christian recruits. We understand that there is every likelihood of further orders of a similar kind being placed with the Bible Society."

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The Alexandria Bible Society auxiliary sponsored a very successful Bible exhibition during the first week of March. Five hundred children and eight hundred adults visited the exhibition. Public meetings were organised, two in English and three in Armenian, Greek and Arabic respectively. About 500 or 600 people were reached in this way.

The exhibition also offered the occasion for the organisation of the third conference of colporteurs and staff in the Egypt sub-agency. This conference was attended by some 25 colporteurs and others.

"The weeks immediately following the exhibition were notable for the large number of enquiries made at the Society's depot, and for a marked increase in both sales of Scriptures and donations towards the work," writes Mr. G. Y. Kass, the sub-agent for Egypt. "It is hoped that this evident increase of interest will be sustained. By the kindness of supporters it was found possible to give a copy of one of the Gospels free to every school child who visited the exhibition, in his or her own language."

England

Under the title "Horses and Chariots" (II Kings 6 : 17), the *British and Foreign Bible Society* has issued its latest popular report, again prepared by the Rev. J. E. Fenn, the Society's editorial secretary. In the introduction the author summarises in the following way the work of the Society's agents and its significance :

"Reading the reports of the Bible Society agents in all parts of the world this year makes two main impressions on the mind : one is the impression of a world which is changing at terrifying speed and often with extreme violence—a restless, peaceless, dynamic world where few of the old, tried criteria seem to apply. The other impression is of the quiet persistence of countless men and women (missionaries, Bible Society agents, Christians of many different races and nations and of widely varying Churchmanship) in offering to other men and women the "Good News" of the unchanging love of God."

*

The British Council of Churches, with co-operation from the B.F.B.S., started in March the publication of a 16pp. "Bulletin on expository preaching" entitled *The Raven*, the purpose of which—explains the editorial of the first issue—is "to assist clergy and ministers to expound the Scriptures more effectively. The ravens, we are told, brought Elijah bread and flesh and it is hoped that this raven will, in its own way, feed the prophet. Each number will be concerned with the exposition of a text or passage or book of the Bible. The expository notes are intended to serve not as a

sermon but as a possible way of approach . . . . The need for a revival of expository preaching was strikingly revealed during the Bible Weeks held under the auspices of the B.F.B.S. and the British Council of Churches. A commission was appointed on biblical exposition by the B.C.C. and its findings led to the undertaking of the present venture . . There will normally be a general article relative to the expositions or to emphases of biblical study, some editorial notes and a note on books."

The Rev. J. Eric Fenn, Editorial Secretary of the B.F.B.S. is on the editorial board of *The Raven*. The periodical is planned for six issues yearly.

*

The Rev. Dr. W. J. Platt reported at the B.F.B.S. Annual Meeting that the Society had circulated about 7,380,000 copies of the Scripture in 1955, an increase of 700,000 over the previous year and a post-war record. Circulation was carried out partly directly through the Society's agencies, partly through the services of co-operating independent national Societies. Of these Scriptures, 2,965,000 were produced in England, including 1,297,000 complete Bibles.

Mr. Norman Bratt, head of the Publishing Department of the Society, reports that for the first five months of the year about 6 tons a day of Scriptures were despatched from England. In this period 2,533,968 books of Scriptures were produced (against 1,097,470 during the same period in 1955), of which over 700,000 were complete Bibles (1955 : 500,000). This means a production of more than 24,000 volumes per working day. The particular emphasis of this production programme was placed on Africa. Scriptures produced included 15,000 copies of the Duala Bible, 10,000 copies of a revised version of the Bible in Lur for the Belgian Congo and West Nile district, 3,000 New Testaments in M'Bai Maisila for French Equatorial Africa, 10,000 in Teso for Uganda and 15,000 in Congo Swahili. A large-type edition of Mark's Gospel in Congo Swahili was printed, for new readers. A new translation of the Temne New Testament was also published.

The complete New Testament was published for the first time in Gbari for Central Nigeria ; in Kim, a language spoken by a community of 5,000 people living around Lake Tchad (French Equatorial Africa) ; in Masana, spoken in the French Cameroons ; and in Mende, spoken by a tribe numering half a million in Sierra Leone.

Other publications in African languages, all new versions, included : a volume containing the Gospel of Matthew to I Corinthians in Gourma, spoken in Volta Territory, Sudan ; the four Gospels in Ebrie, spoken in the Ivory Coast ; the Gospel of Matthew in Nuba : Heiban, a language spoken in the Nuba mountains in the Sudan ; John's Gospel in Byemba-Portuguese for Angola ; in Goulei, spoken by 33,000 people in the district of Lai, French Equatorial Africa ; and the Psalms in Meru, spoken by a tribe of that name who inhabit an area adjacent to the Kikuyu area.

Publications in languages for other areas included 20,000 Korean Bibles in Hankul—the new version of the Bible in colloquial Korean ; 3,200 copies of a revised version of the New Testament in Vietnamese ; and the Gospel of John in Koho, spoken by six tribes numbering 20,000 people inhabiting the mountainous and jungle regions round Dalat, Vietnam.

*

At the end of March, reports the B.F.B.S. Translations Department, translators were at work on the completion of 48 new Bibles and on the revision of 27 ; 34 New Testa-

ments were in preparation and 32 being revised; in 32 languages, in which at present there are no plans for a complete New Testament, translators are proceeding with the translation of single books; first translation work is being done in 53 additional languages. This makes a total of 226 languages in which some translation work is going on and for which the B.F.B.S. Translations Department is responsible.

*

The Birmingham Auxiliary of the B.F.B.S. celebrated its 150th anniversary this year. It was the first auxiliary founded in Britain after the creation of the B.F.B.S. In order to commemorate the event, the auxiliary—headed by the Bishop of Birmingham—had launched an appeal for funds to provide a Bible van for the distribution of Scriptures in Rhodesia, as a result of which the van arrived in Rhodesia last March and was dedicated on Palm Sunday.

*

As a result of a severe explosion and fire on 23rd April, the premises of the Scripture Gift Mission in London were completely destroyed. The stock of publications, held on the premises and valued at £20,000, was lost and all the records relating to translations and production were destroyed.

For the present the S.G.M. is continuing its work in premises kindly put at their disposal by the London City Mission and others, and they have also been able to acquire temporary warehouse space. Since the fire they have already been able to reproduce material in 49 languages. However, at the time this issue goes to press the S.G.M. state that they have not yet been able to make longer-term plans.

During 1955 the Scripture Gift Mission distributed by gift or sale 5,432,960 Scripture booklets, Gospels, New Testaments and Bibles, together with a further 4,812,918 smaller portions. These were sent to 181 countries and islands in 239 languages.

During this period the Mission issued 93 new publications, three of them portions in pioneer tongue—Dagaari (border of Gold Coast and French West Africa), Lele (French Equatorial Africa) and Samburu (E. Kenya)—and four more in languages in which the Mission has not previously printed—Fula-Futa-Jalan (French West Africa), Mandinka (Gambia), Nagaal and Naga-Mzieme (Manipore).

*

Finland

"The *Finnish Bible Society* is planning to produce a new modern Bible edition in Finnish", reports its General Secretary, the Rev. M. L. Parvio. "A pocket New Testament with Psalms, produced with the collaboration of our Swedish-speaking Christian publishing firm, has also just come off the press."

The big Bible Press of the Inner Mission Society at Pieksämäki is now working to full capacity. The Inner Mission Bible Press is producing a large proportion of the Scriptures published in Finland.

France

The work of Scripture distribution in France is facing new possibilities at the present time. The *French Bible Committee*, which for the past ten years has federated and co-ordinated the activities of the different Bible Societies at work in France, is studying a plan of work which in a few years could completely transform the existing organisation and lead to the creation of one national Bible Society. "One can only rejoice at these developments," writes Monsieur J. Blumenthal, General Secretary of the French

Bible Committee, " which are taking place just at the moment when new doors are opening wide to the work of Bible distribution."

This work has continued to be carried out by various means. After the departure of Monsieur Meurice—now giving all his time to the work in Belgium and formerly such an effective worker in France—a new worker was engaged. He is responsible for promotion work among bookshops. The first two months of his activity produced some very interesting results.

In the south of France a colporteur carried out a campaign among a tribe of gypsies who have accepted the Gospel message and themselves become enthusiastic colporteurs, witnessing to the genuineness of their conversion through an extraordinary change in their mode of life.

The doors have opened among school teachers, particularly in teacher training colleges from which the demand for Bibles is becoming considerable. One can only rejoice at this interest when one thinks of the influence of these teachers over the next generation who are in their care.

Anxious to see more effective results of its colportage work the French Bible Committee has devised a card, folded in three, which is now included in every Bible sold by colporteurs. This card gives the reader elementary advice on reading the Bible he has just acquired. One side of the folder can be detached and returned to the Committee, either asking a question, requesting the address of someone in the district able to help the reader to understand the Bible better, or asking for a free correspondence course on the Gospel of Mark.

A " biblical itinerary " and other pamphlets for helping those who wish to read the Bible for the first time are in preparation. In many churches colportage by teams of volunteers has begun to be undertaken, and on Bible Sundays many evangelistic efforts are carried on by the member churches.

On 27th April, the French Bible Committee organised a big public demonstration in the Salle Wagram in Paris, during the course of which the Bible was read and commented upon, using the theme : The Bible and Present-day Problems. The event was publicised not only by means of a good number of posters, but also through invitations sent direct or through church members to their friends, neighbours or work colleagues. The result was a hall crowded with people listening attentively to such messages as : The Bible confronts human misery ; the Bible in face of the problem of class, of race and in face of the man that I am. On this occasion cards similar to those inserted in the Bibles were sent on request to those desiring supplementary explanations and during the following days each postal delivery brought a number of these cards to the Committee's headquarters.

Germany

The committee for " Bibelmission" held its last meeting last April in Wuppertal. Dr. Alfred Müller, the Secretary of the Committee and General Secretary of the *Union of Evangelical Bible Societies in Germany*, reported on the development of the work among refugees in western Germany. The Committee supported financially, in full or in part, the work of ten Bible missionaries whose primary service is to visit the 400,000 refugees still living in some 3,000 camps in West Berlin and West Germany. Scripture distribution on a large scale would be relatively easy, it was reported,

since these people were accustomed to having a Bible in their household. To make them keen to open and read it, however, is a much more difficult and time-consuming task. Since October, 1954, when the Committee started to work, some 35,000 Bibles, 40,000 New Testaments and 85,000 Portions have been circulated. It is expected that circulation during 1956 will amount to about 10,000 Bibles, 15,000 Testaments and 40-50,000 Gospels. The Bibelmission Committee has issued a special edition of 30,000 copies of the Gospel of Luke under the title "And it came to pass in those days." This edition is in booklet form (about the size of the Reader's Digest) and in Roman type.

The work of the Bibelmission is financed by grants from the B.F.B.S. and the A.B.S., the local churches covering between 50% and 75% of the cost of support for the Bible missionaries.

A special project was undertaken during last winter when a number of German prisoners returned from Russia. Contributions raised in Germany made it possible to distribute to them, through the Bibelmission, over 2,000 Bibles and Testaments. The Canstein Bible Society also gave over a thousand Bibles for the same purpose. The chaplain in charge of the camp wrote about one of these consignments, which arrived at Christmas time: "They had been obliged to work hard in Central Asia for 11 years after their deportation and had lived in mud huts. They knew no Sunday and no rest. But they had built and maintained their life on a Christian basis. Indeed it is seldom that the demand for Bibles has been so great as it is now with these people. First they asked for Bibles and only after that came the request for clothes. This desire was genuine, as also was their joy at having the Word of God."

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The "Missionsbund zur Ausbreitung des Evangeliums," an evangelistic organisation which before the war was active in the eastern parts of Europe under the name "Light in the East," and which now organises evangelistic campaigns and courses and works among refugees from Eastern Europe, reports that in 1955, 1,040 Bibles, 3,479 Testaments and 12,951 Portions were circulated through its channels in German and about 30 other languages. The organisation also circulated some 80,000 Gospel tracts and leaflets. The Scripture Gift Mission and the B.F.B.S. supplied most of the Scriptures.

Over 2,700 Scriptures in Russian, Ukrainian, Polish and Hungarian were also circulated in the same year by the Bibelmission Committee.

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The *Stuttgart Bible Society* is producing an edition of the Menge version of the Bible for blind people. The New Testament has already been completed and twelve volumes of the Old Testament have also appeared (from Genesis to Chronicles inclusive)

The Stuttgart Society has also available in Braille the Luther translation.

*

About two million magazine Gospels have now been produced for both East and West Germany, the great majority of which have already been circulated. The *Altenburg Bible Society* has been responsible for the work in the D.D.R., the Lutherisches Verlagshaus in Berlin having produced the editions for the west on behalf of the Altenburg Society. The whole New Testament exists now in the form of eight separate instalments.

Under the same auspices, two hundred thousand magazine Gospels of Luke have also been published in Berlin in the Swahili Union version.

The first one hundred thousand were a gift from German Christians to the work of the B.F.B.S. in Kenya. The second half of the edition was printed at the request of the B.F.B.S.

*

The Stuttgart Bible Society published a 32-page pamphlet prepared by the Director of the Society, Dr. E. Diehl, in which a brief history of the Society is given (an elaboration of an article first published in the BULLETIN No. 13, p.20).

From its foundation up to June 30th, 1955, the Society had circulated 12,451,174 Bibles, 14,849,954 Testaments and 11,878,897 Portions, a total of almost 40 million Scriptures. Under Portions the Stuttgart Society also reckons such important works as their Family Bible and Youth Bible (abridged editions), their Bible dictionary and concordances; the Biblia Hebraica and Septuagint are included in the Testaments category.

The Stuttgart Bible Society was founded in 1812, the day Napoleon entered Moscow, in answer to the urgent appeal of K. F. Steinkopf, the first foreign secretary of the B.F.B.S. and himself a native of Württemberg.

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The *Berlin Bible Society* reports that in 1955 it organised Bible exhibitions in 25 localities in eastern Germany. Thousands of visitors passed through them. The Society has now set up six sets of exhibition material in order to meet the increasing demand.

Guatemala

A sub-agency of the A.B.S. Central American Agency is to be opened in Guatemala. Mr. Ralph Rice, a well-known colporteur and leader in colportage work, will be in charge. It is hoped that the bookstore and depository can be opened for the summer. A colporteur based on Guatemala has also been appointed.

Though there has been no sales promotion effort in Guatemala and the work was done largely on a voluntary basis, the circulation has increased: in 1950 there were distributed 4,600 Bibles, 7,000 New Testaments and 90,800 Gospels; in 1955 about twice as many Bibles and Testaments were issued and over 130,000 Portions distributed.

*

The A.B.S. Translations Secretary, Dr. Eugene Nida, and his assistant Dr. W. L. Wonderly, attended last April a Translators' Conference in Guatemala. The main theme of the conference was "The syntactic problems relating to translation work." There were representatives from almost all the linguistic groups in Guatemala, in which translation is being done. More than 80 people attended the meeting, including approximately 30 Guatemalan translation assistants and helpers. Plans were made for another similar conference to take place in November, 1957.

*

The New Testament in Conob, recently issued for the first time (see BULLETIN 25, p.33), was presented at a special ceremony to Col. C. Castilla Armas, the President of Guatemala, last January. The President, in a letter of thanks to the translators for their work, congratulated them on their contribution towards the cultural development of the Indians.

India

The Central Council of the *Bible Society of India, Pakistan and Ceylon* held its fifth triennial meeting last March. The following information is taken from the minutes of the meeting:

The General Secretary, Mr. P. Mahanty, reported that during the

three years under review the number of branches had increased from 22 to 70, the number of members from 6,600 to 9,600, the annual contributions from Rs. 121,500 to Rs. 160,000 (£1,200). Circulation was the highest since 1946.

Translation work is in progress in 31 languages, in 7 of which parts of the Scriptures are being translated for the first time. In 8 of the 31 languages the work consists of a revision of existing translations. The whole Bible exists now in 23 Indian languages and it is expected that within three years 7 additional languages will possess the text of the complete Bible.

With regard to distribution, Mr. Mahanty pointed out that although the average distribution during the triennium was 861,669 per annum, an increase of nearly 9% on the previous three years, it was utterly inadequate to meet the needs of the three countries. The literate population of the three countries was approximately 73 millions against an annual distribution of Scriptures of under one million, while even in the Christian Church it was estimated that there were thousands of homes without Scriptures. Up to the end of February, 1956, the Society's scheme for ensuring that there is a copy of the Bible in every Christian home had resulted in 3,702 Bibles in 12 languages being distributed in this way. Distribution was also being made on a considerable scale to hospitals and to matriculates and graduates. The scheme for placing open Bibles in display cases in strategic places was also started during the last three years.

Reporting on "The Bible Society and the Challenge of the Present Situation," the General Secretary recalled that nationalism in India was expressing itself in an emphatic affirmation of the validity of Hinduism. This was also true of Islam and Buddhism in Pakistan and Ceylon respectively. Communalism was flourishing upon nationalism and every lover of his country was expected to be loyal to the ancient religion of his country. The pressure of the majority community was being increasingly felt by the small Christian community which in many areas in the three countries was being closely watched. The Christian Church also had to consider the dissemination of Communist literature which was being done at a price that even the very poor could afford to pay. At the same time, through the many aspects of the great social revolution which was taking place, the ground was being prepared for an opportunity for the Gospel message on a scale never before available.

The Bible Society machinery, which was possibly adequate to meet the situation in the past, now needed urgent revision in order to concentrate both in areas where the Church was strongly centred and growing rapidly and also in areas where the Church was weak. The distribution of Scriptures on a greatly expanded scale was urgent, for the reading and the distribution of the Word of God and the strength and growth of the Church were vitally connected. Effective distribution to the rank and file of the majority community was possible only if the rank and file of the Church felt the challenge and undertook the responsibility.

In the discussion that followed, there was general agreement that the Bible Society, in co-operation with the Christian Literature Society, should try to produce some simple guides to the reading of the Bible, which would not be bound in with the Scriptures, but which could be distributed with them. The Council also agreed that, while it was not the particular task of the Bible Society as such to undertake literacy work, it should encourage individual Christians to help in this and should by

representation on literacy committees help in every way possible in the preparation of suitable literature for the new literates. Several members emphasised the importance and urgency of Scripture distribution in the tribal areas, where missionaries were not allowed and where it was uncertain how long distribution would be possible.

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Among the decisions taken by the Central Council of the Bible Society of India, Pakistan and Ceylon, we note the creation of an auxiliary in Assam where the evangelical Church numbers one million, 11% of the population of the area, and about one-fifth of the total Christian population of India. It is hoped that the auxiliary will be able to start its activity in October, when a newly-appointed secretary takes up his work.

The appointment of a full-time secretary for the Kerala Auxiliary (Travancore—the other Christian stronghold in India) has been agreed upon. So far the work has been directed from Madras.

*

The Central Council of the B.S.I.P.C. has also agreed to meet the request of the Pakistan Auxiliary and to authorise it to withdraw from the B.S.I.P.C. The name of the Society will in future be the Bible Society of India and Ceylon.

The Bible Society in Pakistan, which now becomes an agency of the British and Foreign Bible Society, is invited to send fraternal delegates to all future meetings of the Central Committee of the B.S.I.P.C. and to attend meetings of the Society's Executive Committee when matters of common interest are placed on its agenda.

At the time of writing, the process of official registration of the changed name had not been completed.

*

A survey to ascertain how many Christian homes have no copy of the Bible was started with the co-operation of the churches in 1955. Up to the end of February, 1956, 3,702 Bibles in 12 languages were distributed under this scheme. The Society's aim is that every Christian home should have a copy of the Bible before the end of the present year, the arrangement being that each home would pay as much as it could afford, any balance being made up by the Church, or if this were quite impossible, by the Bible Society from a special fund collected for this purpose. In this connection, the Central Committee of the B.S.I.P.C. resolved, in view of the supreme and strategic importance of the Bible in the home, to convey to the central authorities of the various churches in India and Ceylon the suggestion that they might consider : (*a*) including the presentation of a Bible in their marriage services ; (*b*) encouraging clergy and ministers to preach from time to time on the vital need of the study of the Bible by Church members, and (*c*) initiating Bible study groups in every church.

*

Special reference is made in the B.S.I.P.C. 1955 Annual Report to the development of women's work. There is now a Women's Committee established in each of the Auxiliary centres, with the exception of Lahore, and these Committees have had a year of useful activity. These committees are of necessity in the big cities. "Outside the work of the Women's Committees in the big cities," says the report, "our main means of keeping in touch with the women in the churches and enlisting their support is through the affiliation of women's groups already existing in the churches. There are now about 326 which have accepted affiliation (107 three years ago), and we hope that the number will greatly increase in the years to come, for they can be a great source of strength

to the Society in helping it to become more firmly rooted in the local churches." These groups represent as the report states, an accumulation of many things—prayer, correspondence, touring, special efforts, distribution of the Scriptures and many contributions.

"The affiliation scheme is very simple," continues the report, "and has been designed with the object of working through the women's organisations that are already in the churches, rather than creating a new organisation especially for the Bible Society. Each group affiliating undertakes to pray regularly for the Society and to devote at least one of its meetings during the year to learning more about the work. It is also invited to make an annual contribution to the Society's funds. In return it received a certificate of affiliation from the Society, and regular prayer requests, suggestions for Bible reading and other leaflets and newsletters to keep it in touch with the work. It is a scheme that is easy to work without creating fresh organisation, and one that gives the women in the churches an opportunity to take their share in this work of offering the Scriptures to their fellow-countrymen and to widen their view beyond their own immediate circle . . . ."

"To meet the need for getting into touch with the leading women in the churches it is planned to hold a Women's Conference in each of the Auxiliaries to which women leaders can be invited from the whole area of the Auxiliary . . . . The first of the series was held at Secunderabad in 1955. The programme included Bible studies, talks on the Bible Society and its task, both in India and throughout the world, and discussions of ways in which women can take their share in this work. Many of the delegates went back to their homes feeling that this was a call to active Christian witness that they ought to lay before the women in their churches and some encouraging results of the conference have already been seen in various places in increased interest in Scripture distribution, in the organising of sales, in the affiliation of women's meetings and in the desire to hold area conferences. This training of leadership by means of short conferences of this kind seems to be one of the most hopeful methods of extending knowledge of our work and thereby increasing the support."

The results, it was recalled, might not be seen clearly in terms of finance for some time to come, though Women's Work was already contributing about Rs. 25,000 a year, but the immediate result would lie along lines of fresh prayer support and the general education of women in the work and needs of the Society. They were already beginning to take part in the distribution of Scriptures and this help could be greatly increased as the work developed. The building up of fresh interest in this way was bound to be a slow process, but it was infinitely worth while because it meant that the Society was touching a new constituency, particularly as the work developed in the smaller towns and the rural areas.

The Central Committee decided to increase the present staff of Women's Work (four) by the appointment of two additional secretaries.

■

Mr. R.H.P. Dart, Business Manager of the B.S.I.P.C., in a recent circular letter quotes a report from a friend on his experience with 'Radio Evangelism and the Bible.' "The power of God to convert the soul through the reading of the Scriptures," writes the friend, "is evidenced by the following testimony from a listener to our Marathi programme. 'I was going on a pilgrimage to a famous temple near K . . . ., when we heard a missionary preaching in the open-air.

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1. Manila—bindery stock. 2. Peru—translator and helper working on Shipibo Mark. 3. Checking manuscript for Mongolian New Testament revision. 4. Translator and type-setters working on same New Testament. 5. Guatemala—working on the Kekchi translation. 6. Philippines—revision committee at work on Cebuano New Testament.

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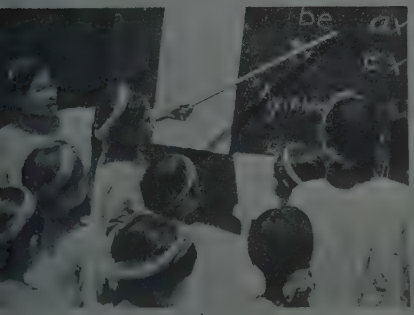
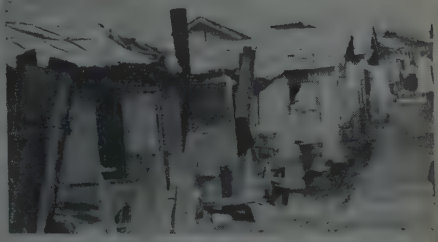
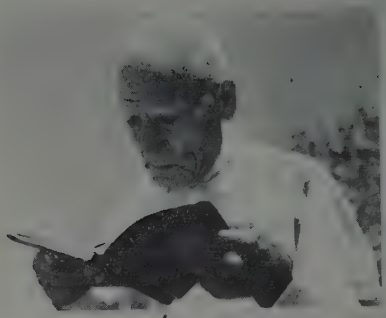
1. North Korean P.O.W. Officers with Korean Scriptures. 2. Okinawa—Bible distribution in a leper colony. 3. Bible colporteur and Buddhist priest. 4. Soldiers with Korean Testaments. 5. Colportage in Brazil. 6. Siam—Christian Scriptures by the gate of the temple.





1. Guatemala—Quiche girl reading the New Testament. 2. Central America—the Good News in Mayan. 3. Lake Titicaca, on borders of Bolivia and Peru. 4. Eskimo children with New Testaments. 5. Kikongo schoolboy, Africa. 6. Guatemala—learning to read Mam. 7. Korea—a poor section of Pusan.



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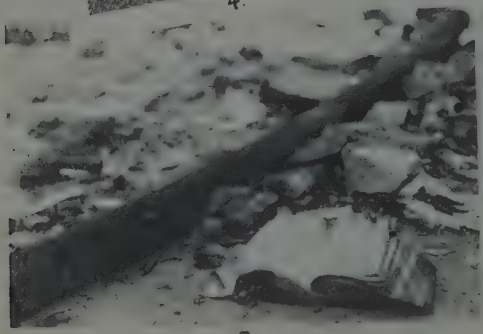

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1. Mexico—reading the Word in Juchitan. 2. Peru—primitive housing in mining camp. 3. Buriat Mongols. 4. Tzeltal girl with Scripture. 5. Korea a burned Bible in ruins of the Pusan Bible House. 6. Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia signs the Good Will Book in New York.

I was gripped by his message and would have stayed listening all day, but my parents forced me to continue on our pilgrimage to the temple. When I returned home I bought a Bible and was converted through reading it. Please send me your Bible correspondence course, so that I might have further instruction."

Japan

The *Japan Bible Society* is planning to produce several new Scripture editions. First, a Japanese-Korean diglot Gospel of Mark, for the numerous Koreans living in Japan. Secondly, the same Gospel in a Japanese-Portuguese diglot for Japanese emigrants to Brazil. Thirdly, at the request of the Gideons International of Japan, an English-Japanese New Testament, giving the American Standard Version (1901 revision) alongside the Kogotai Japanese colloquial text. Further, a wide-margin Japanese New Testament is to be produced and a new edition of colportage Gospels and Acts will be prepared with the text set up in paragraphs and completed by paragraph headings.

The Japan Bible Society reported recently on the work of its colporteurs. At the beginning of this year the Society had 80 colporteurs at work, 40 working on a salaried basis and 36 on commission. Of the 40 salaried colporteurs, 26 work in five teams of 4-6 men, and during the three months period under review, of the total of 406,639 Scriptures circulated through colporteurs, as many as 302,431 were circulated by those working in teams.

Special care is taken in the preparation and organisation of the teams. The physical condition and family circumstances of each colporteur are carefully gone into by the General Secretary and the Colportage Secretary, and above all the spiritual harmony of the individuals composing each team is specially emphasized. When the leaders of each team have been chosen they are called to Tokyo for careful consultation about the areas of work and the personnel of the teams.

Each team usually works in one area for three months : before starting on their work of distribution, at least one whole day—sometimes two—is spent in devotions, usually led by the General Secretary and Colportage Secretary. Generally the ministers and local committees near the area of work are invited to attend and participate in the devotional meetings.

Members of the team stay at one guest house (inn) and hold morning and evening prayer meetings together. Local pastors of all denominations are asked to visit the team and participate in these meetings. On Sundays the members of the team attend the local churches, going to different churches if there are several in the city and its vicinity. They are often asked by the local churches to give their witness at evening worship meetings.

In the case of colporteurs working individually on a commission basis, their physical and family circumstances determine the locality of their work ; their distribution work must be near their homes. However, they are asked to join a team when possible, while on the other hand some members of the team may be asked to work individually. Most of the commission colporteurs are local pastors of some denomination. They undertake to be responsible for the distribution, which is often carried out by members of their church.

The third colportage period started on 5th April, with 6 teams working in 6 different areas of southern Japan for two months. The leaders of the teams had met with headquarters staff for a two-day retreat before the campaign. The fourth colportage

campaign was due to start about the middle of June, in the northern part of Japan. . . .

Parallel to these special campaigns, work has been continued in various parts of Japan. In April, General Secretary Miyakoda visited the two teams at work since last autumn in Kyushu Island, one of the densely populated areas of Japan, with 11 million inhabitants. These two teams had almost completed their work in the coastal area and were about to move into the interior. Mr. Miyakoda reports most encouragingly on the work done in the area. Most Scriptures are bought by non-Christians and it is expected that in the long run some of these many seeds will bear fruit. Bible colportage is an essential feature of evangelism in Japan and should be supported by the prayers of all those who are concerned with the future of the Japanese nation.

Mexico

The manuscript of the entire New Testament in the Chol language of southern Mexico has recently been completed and sent to New York for publication. It is hoped that by the first part of next year the scores of growing congregations in the mountains and jungle plains of Chiapas will be able to receive printed copies of the New Testament, "a book," says Dr. E. Nida, "which will speak to a tribe of people as few books have ever spoken, for the more than 5,000 Chol Christians, out of a tribe of some 20,000, have been experiencing in their own lives the true meaning of a New Testament church.

"Not more than ten years ago there was only a small handful of believers, but the publication of various books of the New Testament (18 have been published to date, preceding the publication of the entire New Testament) and the effective witness of new believers resulted in the formation of scores of tiny congregations in towns, villages and small farming hamlets.

"As the work of the Spirit of God grew, so did the persecution. People were stoned, beaten, their lives were threatened, their fields were robbed, their homes destroyed, and some of their little chapels burned to the ground. More than five years ago five of the church leaders were imprisoned on trumped up charges, and three of these men still remain in their dark cells, but that has not prevented them from singing the Gospel to those who pass by the prison, from telling the Good News to their fellow-inmates and from writing constantly to the scattered congregations, encouraging them in the faith and expressing thanks to God that they have been counted as worthy to suffer for His Name.

"The evangelistic thrust of this work has been carried on primarily through a dedicated group of more than a hundred lay preachers, who have gone in successive groups to spend two or three days a month with the missionaries, during which time they have studied the Scriptures, helped on new translations, and gone out prepared to teach in the widely scattered congregations during the following months.

"More recently there have been added difficulties, for local authorities have taken advantage of a law requiring the conscription of young men for marching practise on Sunday mornings, thus preventing some of the men from journeying to far-away congregations. The re-location of a major part of the tribe on new lands has also resulted in congregations being disrupted, but the message of the life-transforming Good News continues to be spread by these young, Spirit-filled Christians, who are often settled near villages as yet unreached by the Gospel. Even as the Christians in Jerusalem were scattered by persecution throughout Asia Minor, so Chol believers have

been driven out to find new land and there to found new churches."

Netherlands

Dr. H. v. d. Veen, the oldest of the language experts of the *Netherlands Bible Society*, who went as long ago as 1916 to the country of the Toradjas (Celebes), has returned to the Netherlands after having laboured for nearly 40 years on the translation of the Bible into the language of the South Toradjas. Though long past the pensionable age, he has gone on with his lifework in order to finish the translation of the Scriptures into this language.

*

From 4th-6th January a conference was held at Overveen (near Harlem), intended in the first place for the out-door workers of the Netherlands Bible Society. Several speeches were delivered at this conference: The Rev. A Dronkers (Netherlands Reformed Church) discoursed on "The relationship between Bible distribution and Bible use"; Dr. R. P. Kramers on "Aspects of Bible use in China"; Dr. L. Onvlee on "Life at Sumba"; Mr. F. L. S. F. Baron van Tuyll van Serooskerken on "The work of the United Bible Societies"; and the Rev. F. Visser on "Propaganda methods." Professor Boendermaker (Lutheran Church) revealed his vocal and instructive talents in making the guests familiar with the treasures of the new Lutheran Hymn Book.

For all the participants the conference proved in all respects most enlightening. The fact that the Netherlands Bible Society can only do its work effectively by close co-operation with the churches was particularly stressed.

Philippines

A series of translators' conferences was held in various parts of the country early this year, when Mr. Waterman and Mr. Roble, American Bible Society translation staff members, met with translators, translation committees and missionaries. Various manuscripts were checked and discussed and plans for revisions in some languages laid down. Such meetings proved invaluable for the preparation of satisfactory translations and stressed the value of a careful checking by the Society's linguistic specialists of the manuscripts proposed for publication.

Poland

Professor Dr. Jan Szeruda, a professor of Warsaw University, has been working on a new translation of the Bible in Polish since 1949. The translations made by Professor Szeruda are submitted to two commissions, one composed of theologians and the other of language experts. The portions already translated and approved are from the Passion story, the Church lessons (Scripture passages used in church services), Genesis and Psalms. Recently Isaiah 1-39 was submitted to the commissions, and work will continue first on the translation of the Prophets and then on Job, the Proverbs and later the historical books.

Spain

As already reported in the religious press of the world, the Ministry of Information and Tourism of the Spanish Government has confiscated a considerable quantity of Scriptures (about 900 Bibles, 14,000 New Testaments and 20,000 Gospels) from the Madrid Depot of the B.F.B.S. and from a printing plant. (A number of hymn books were taken at the same time from the printer.) It was alleged that the printing of these Scriptures had been done without observing current regulations in Spain, which require that all religious material should be submitted to the

censorship of the Roman Catholic Church before publication.

Both the importation into Spain of Scriptures in the Reina-Valera translation, and their printing in Spain are said to be forbidden. The Reina-Valera version is the one used by the Bible Society at the present time. Casiodao de Reina, a former priest who took refuge in Switzerland, published the first Spanish complete Bible in 1567 in Basle. His translation was revised half a century later by Cipriano de Valera.

Among the numerous protests which found expression in all parts of the world regarding this confiscation (which followed the closing of the Protestant seminary and school in Madrid last winter) one of the most widely quoted was the letter which Bishop Dibelius, chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany, wrote to Cardinal Frings of Cologne, president of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference at Fulda (Germany), asking him to co-operate in removing the limitations put to religious freedom in Spain. Bishop Dibelius wrote, among other things :

" The Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany is aware of the fact that the printing of the Bible in Spain is not expressly forbidden. It is also aware that there has been no application for a permit to print Bibles. However, according to information we have received, this permit can only be granted by the Spanish Episcopate. In practice it is therefore impossible in the Christian country of Spain to obtain a permit to print the Bible for use by Spanish Protestants.

" The Council of the EKD was also concerned to hear that the Spanish Episcopate is opposed to tolerant trends within the Spanish Government, and to the reopening of the seminary and school at ' El Porvenir' in Madrid.

" In the years of difficulty through which we have passed together, we think we have learnt that Christ is greater than the barriers between the Churches. We recall many instances of the fellowship between our two churches and count them as precious. For this very reason the Council of the EKD cannot look on passively while freedom of faith and conscience are violated in a country which is part of the Western world."

The question of the confiscation of Bibles was also echoed in all the British press and the matter was raised on two occasions in the House of Lords.

The B.F.B.S. has taken the matter up through the ordinary diplomatic channel.

Switzerland

A Scripture distribution campaign was undertaken on the occasion of the last International Motor Show in Geneva. A small Bible exhibition booth was set up in the front of a church near the main entrance to the show. Coupons offering free Gospels were distributed along with a brief tract containing an evangelistic message. Scriptures were on sale at the booth.

Thirty-five voluntary helpers took part in this effort. Of the 10,000 coupons distributed, 100 were returned with a request for a Gospel (in seven different languages). Sales amounted to some £15-worth of Scriptures, mainly Portions.

■

The board of the ' Fonds d'Edition des Saintes Ecritures ' (Scripture production fund) of the Maison de la Bible in Geneva, indicates in its 22nd

report published in the spring that since 1940, when the Fonds started, 467,000 Bibles, 553,000 Testaments, 1,371,000 Gospels, 48,000 Psalms-Proverbs—a total of 2,439,000 volumes—have been published. Editions in French account for 1,822,500 of that total, with 350,000 each of Bibles and Testaments and over one million Gospels.

The last publication of the Fonds was an edition of 20,000 Italian Bibles, which came off the press in June. The Fonds plan to publish in the next twelve months a reprint of 25,000 French Bibles, 1 million French Gospels and 50,000 Italian New Testaments. A new small-size French Bible is in preparation.

*

The newly elected General Secretary of the *Swiss Bible Society*, the Rev. Otto Naegeli, was installed in his new office at a ceremony which took place on June 10th in Bassersdorf (near Zürich), where the central office of the Swiss Bible Society will be located. Bishop Sigg, the Swiss Methodist Bishop, presided at the ceremony, which followed a special Sunday service organised in the parish church. Lunch was also offered by the local church, at which various delegates and friends, including the chairman of the Swiss Bible Society, the Rev. H. L. Henriod, congratulated the Rev. O. Naegeli and wished him well in his work with the Society.

United States of America

Distribution of Scriptures by the *American Bible Society* during 1955 totalled 14,918,353 volumes in the United States and abroad. This, when added to 466,231,012 circulated since the foundation of the Society, brings the 140 years' total to 481,149,365 copies.

A.B.S. production in the U.S.A. amounted in 1955 to 746,662 Bibles, 1,241,319 Testaments, 12,036,563 Portions and 46,832 Scriptures in Braille and talking book records, making a total of 14,071,376 Scriptures. In 1945 the total was 11,733,951 ; in 1935 it was 3,279,035 —the production of portions in that year amounting to 2,721,915 copies.

*

The first meeting of the Editorial Committee for the new Greek New Testament text being sponsored by the A.B.S., in collaboration with the National Bible Society of Scotland, and the Stuttgart Bible Society, will be held at Keuka College, Lake Keuka, New York, during the month of August, 1956. This Committee will take up the basic problems involved in laying down principles and procedures for a new text of the Ancient Greek New Testament, a text which is to be based upon manuscript evidence, take fully into account recent discoveries, and present more fully the divergent evidence for passages of considerable exegetical significance. Supplementary volumes are also planned, which will give to the reader the reasons employed by the Committee for the choice of particular readings, and include perhaps the bibliography on New Testament studies as well as full information on all important manuscripts of the New Testament.

*

The A.B.S. has completed the production of the New Testament in Portuguese braille, the whole New Testament being contained in seven volumes.

*

Statistics compiled in New York indicate that the quantity of individual gifts rose from 110,000 in 1945 to almost 375,000 in 1955. Of the latter about two-thirds were gifts of less than $5. The present goal of the Society is to aim at half a million individual gifts a year.

The seal-stamps service reports that ten years ago just over 400,000 letters to prospective donors were sent out, resulting in 25,000 gifts received, representing approximately $70,000. In 1954, 1.3 million letters to prospective donors were despatched which brought in over 80,000 gifts totalling over $200,000.

On the other hand, income from churches' funds has dropped from $1,148,338 in 1945 to $826,721 in 1954; whereas figures for overall church giving to charitable causes rose from $53 million to $201 million during the same period, according to the Joint Department of Stewardship and Benevolances of the National Council of Churches.

*

The board of the A.B.S. has approved for use in A.B.S. editions of the Scriptures, particularly those for new literates, a series of 17 full-page drawings and 21 vignettes drawn by Mr. John Lear, an American artist. These illustrations are line drawings.

President Sukarno of the Indonesian Republic visited the U.S.A. earlier this year. He was accompanied by Dr. J. Leimena, a member of Parliament and Adviser to the Minister of Health. Mr. Leimena is also chairman of the Indonesian Protestant Party (Parkindo). He was himself Minister of Health and the only Protestant in all the cabinets since independence, except one.

Dr. Leimena paid a visit to Bible House in New York, showing particular interest in the display of Scriptures in thirty-one of the Indonesian languages. He is a full supporter of the Indonesian Bible Society.

*

A new policy has been worked out by the A.B.S. in relation to the publication of Scriptures in the Indian languages spoken in Latin America. Seventy-eight separate books in 40 languages were published in recent times at the request of missionaries working among Latin American Indians. Whereas editions of some of them have rapidly been exhausted, others have circulated very slowly and large quantities still remain in stock. Some satisfactory arrangements were needed by which on the one hand the Society would be safeguarded against unduly large estimates from the field, which might cause substantial losses to the Society's agencies, and on the other hand the missionary societies and their workers would be freed from the fear of shortage, possibly caused by unduly conservative estimates on the part of the Society.

According to the new policy, the cost for tentative editions of less than 50 copies will be supported by the Translations Department of the A.B.S. They would not be counted as new languages.

Initial "official" publications of 100-300 copies would be produced in multilith form and would be handled by the Agency involved, and counted as new languages. The production of further books in a given language would be determined by the experiences made with the initial publications.

First editions of the New Testament would not exceed 1,000 copies. Should the missionary translator or society insist that an edition be larger, the mission should agree to purchase at cost all the books in excess of 50 remaining unsold in the Agency stock three years after the publication date.

*

"The Book that Lives" is the theme adopted by the A.B.S. for its Worldwide Bible Reading campaign

for 1957. All the Society's pamphlets and posters will illustrate the idea. The 1956 theme is " Take . . . Read."

*

" Our Bible, how it came to us," the A.B.S. film on the history of the English Bible, had more than a thousand bookings last year and half a million viewers, it is reported. It was used also at least a further thousand times in the three-part version.

" My Right and my Cause " (the story of the Korean Hankul Version) was judged the best religious documentary film of 1955 by the National Evangelical Film Foundation. The same award was also granted to the A.B.S. in previous years for " The Whole Armour " (1952) and " Our Bible, how it came to us " (1954).

*

The 1956 AB, (Antiquarian Bookman) published in the U.S.A. (42 Walnut Street, NEWARK 2, New Jersey), included this year a special Bible section, prepared on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Gutenberg Bible. This special section is available as a reprint at the cost of $1.

Besides a summary of Gutenberg's story, it gives a survey of the history and location of the known copies of the Gutenberg Bible, a review of notable editions of the Bible during these five centuries and other information relative to Bible editions.

Venezuela

The agency office and depot has been moved from its inadequate and poorly-located quarters to a building in the centre of Caracas. The space thus occupied is in an arcade which allows for a substantially lower rent than would be required for space directly opening on the street. Blotters, on the back of which is printed a small map of the centre of the city and showing the location of the new quarters, have been widely circulated all over the country.

*

The Caracas daily " El Universal " on Friday, 6th April, 1956, carried an article, the translation of which is as follows :—

Next Sunday is the Day of the Bible and Faith as was revealed yesterday in the Palace of the Archbishop, the Father Juan Ganuza, Director of the Secretariat of Defense of the Faith and the Bible Committee. It was explained that by disposition of the Venezuelan Ecclesiastical Hierarchy the first week of the Bible and Faith would be celebrated this year. Father Ganuza said, " It has been celebrated in many countries for years. Now, Benedict XV recommended its celebration and blessed it." Copies of the Bible will be sold at popular prices, just as two other sacred works, one of them " The Drama of Jesus." The purpose of this week is to diffuse the Holy Bible, said Father Ganuza. For the church, the Bible is the Word of God. All the books that compose the Bible, he explained have God as their author. It is imperative to know better the text of the Gospels. The Bible movement of the church is very intensive and there are many societies for the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures, centres of study and investigation and courses and conferences. He said that in Venezuela next Sunday would be celebrated as a Day of the Holy Bible, which is being preceded by an entire week of intensive campaign and prayer and the diffusion of the Gospels and life of Christ in popular editions. Many Roman Catholic organisations have already promised, according to Father Ganuza, to read a fragment of the

Bible with their accompanying commentary in all of the meetings, and due to our campaign of "five minutes daily with the Bible" many persons have also promised to read it daily. At 6 p.m. on Sunday the ceremony of promise of faithfulness to the Church of Christ will be held in the Cathedral of Caracas, attended by Archbishop Arias Blanco . . . .

Seizing this opportunity, Secretary Bystrom posted the entire front page of this paper in the depot window on 6th April, and attracted the attention of scores of people. He also published a two-column, six-inch advertisement, advertising Bibles for sale and other Scriptures in various languages and at moderate prices.

Yugoslavia

Mr. A. L. Haig, B.F.B.S. Secretary for Europe, has recently returned from a visit to Yugoslavia. He reports that the Bible Society there has no complaints in regard to its treatment. The very high import charges levied on Bibles have been somewhat lowered, and the circulation last year (namely nearly 65,000 copies) is the best since the war. The cost of living and increased rents make the work more expensive, but these are difficulties faced by everybody and which, one can trust, will gradually be surmounted.

Mr. Haig was received by His Holiness the Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and the latter once more emphasised his appreciation of the work that the Bible Society is doing, and expressed the hope that more and more Bibles would be circulated amongst his people and read. The support to Bible Society work accorded by His Holiness is a great encouragement, and many priests take advantage of the opportunity to circulate the Scriptures in their parishes.

A translation committee has been set up by the Orthodox Church at Skopje with a view to the translation of the Bible into Macedonian, the language spoken in the People's Republic of that name in the south of Yugoslavia. The Gospels have already been translated and printed, but the committee has turned to the British and Foreign Bible Society for its assistance and co-operation in the furtherance of this important project.

Translation Sub-Committee.

The U.B.S. Sub-Committee on Translations met from April 18-20 in New York, as a guest of the American Bible Society. Most of the time was spent in sharing information about the progress of the work in the different projects in which the Bible Societies are engaged to-day. Further light was thrown by Dr. Nida on the A.B.S. plans regarding the production of a new Greek New Testament text (see above page —). Unlike the texts now currently in use, which have been produced by individual scholars, the text contemplated will be prepared by an international committee of scholars. Supplementary volumes will also be issued which will give more detailed information about the various readings of the text and their respective value than the critical apparatus appended to the text itself will allow for. Dr. J. H. Greenlee, who has the responsibility of preparing the material for the committee, also gave some insight on various aspects of his work.

The Sub-Committee also heard with interest progress reports from the B.F.B.S. representative, the Rev. W. J. Bradnock. One of the most important features of the B.F.B.S. translations department's activity was the preparation of an English translation specially planned for the use of foreign translators who did not sufficiently master the languages of the original text to be able to translate without help from it, but who had a good knowledge of current English and yet might be misled by traditional renderings in the usual English translations. Such a translation, which aimed at exactitude and simplicity, was not intended for general use and publication.

Mr. J. Kijne, of the Netherlands Bible Society, also reported briefly about the various projects in which his department is engaged, particularly on the completion of the list of difficult Old Testament passages and on experiments of translations in popular Dutch.

All existing translation departments were, it was reported, faced with increasing duties and had been obliged to appoint new staff. Once more it appeared that the emphasis in the departments' tasks was on a growing responsibility for maintaining close contacts with the translators and providing them with the maximum technical help possible. It was also becoming necessary for the Bible Societies to provide Bible readers in the "younger churches" with such helps to Bible reading as commercial publishers readily supplied in traditionally Christian countries, but which nobody made available in the other countries—helps like concordances, subject indexes, illustrations, explanations on weights and measures, fauna and flora, geographical features, information about social and other groups and classes, etc.

A good deal of time was devoted by the Sub-Committee to the discussion of the editorial policy of THE BIBLE TRANSLATOR. The chief editor, Mr. Bradnock, presented the group with the results of an enquiry which had been made among the readers of the periodical. The answers received showed that on the whole the policy followed enjoyed large support. Since the majority of the translators were working on New Testament books, the emphasis put during the last few years on articles related to problems connected with the New Testament seemed justified.

However, there were indications that a larger proportion of articles should deal with Old Testament problems as the number of Bible translations and revisions increased.

The members of the Sub-Committee also had the privilege of meeting with the A.B.S. Translations Sub-Committee and of taking part in one of that committee's ordinary meetings.

Bible illustration and Typography.

A working group of the U.B.S. Commission on Bible illustration and typography met in Brussels in April for a one-day session. Its main object was to define more clearly what the terms of reference for the Commission could be, and to make proposals for consideration by the Standing Committee at its next meeting.

Mr. H. Renner, who had taken a leading part in the discussions which took place on the subject at the Boldern Regional Conference (see BULLETIN No. 25) and Mr. Bo Runmark (Sweden) introduced the two main topics of the agenda : The task of the U.B.S. Commission on Bible illustration and typography, and The Aims of Bible illustration. These two papers will be published in a forthcoming issue of the BULLETIN.

A "workshop on typography" was also organised, at which the members of the group examined the reasons that had led to the choice of particular types for particular editions. Mr. Visser of the Netherlands Bible Society led that part of the discussion.

The findings of the group strengthened the conviction which had already manifested itself at Boldern, that Bible Societies needed to share much more intensely their experiences and findings in the field of typography and Bible illustration. The steady exchange of information in that field would greatly help them to prepare more readable, more attractive, more purposeful editions of the Scriptures. Modern readers, particularly in the West, were much more sensitive than in the past to kinds of type chosen. In the field of illustration too a common analysis and examination of needs and aims could help many Societies which felt that they should take steps towards the publication of illustrated Scriptures, and which yet hesitated about the right line to follow. It was clear to the group that such studies should not be made in an 'ivory tower,' but that contacts should be made with other institutions or groups also interested in these questions.

*

Literacy

The following information about progress in literacy in the Gold Coast is taken from the April issue of "Overseas Education":

A few figures to illustrate the rapidity of progress in the Gold Coast are selected from the October, 1955, issue of "Advance," the paper published by the Gold Coast department of social welfare and community development. In 1949 there were 291,000 children enrolled in primary and middle schools; in 1955 there were 543,000. Adult literacy work has increased since the war to the point where about 8,000 voluntary workers are trained each year in the use of Laubach methods, and the total enrolment of adults in literacy classes from sixty to seventy thousand a year. Vernacular newspapers in the main language groups are selling at the rate of 100,000 a month, and the circulation is increasing.

*

Reports published by the National Christian Council of India about the development of the adult literacy campaigns through church organisations, indicate that in 1955 over 30,000 adults entered the courses and more than 20,000 were recognised as literate at the end of the course.

INTER-BIBLE SOCIETY EVENTS

Course for French speaking Colporteurs

The French Bible Committee, the Belgian Bible Society and the Société Evangélique de Genève, have prepared—in close collaboration—a nine months' course for the training of colporteurs. Six months will be devoted to theoretical training with practical work once a week. The three last months will be used for field work.

The course, which is still an experimental one, will start on 15th October, with about six students. Most of them, on this occasion, will be colporteurs already at work but whose training is limited or non-existant. Some of them will be accompanied by their wives.

The party will be housed in the John Knox House, in Geneva, a home which was opened two years ago by the Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A., for foreign students in Geneva, and as a centre to help evangelistic work in Latin European countries. The warden of the home, the Rev. R. W. Teeuwissen, who is of Belgian origin and who has been active for many years as an evangelist and minister in the north of France, has been permitted by his board to give half of his time, in an honorary capacity, to help as tutor in the preparation of the colporteurs.

An imposing panel of teachers has been enlisted. Professors of theology, leaders of Bible schools, pastors engaged in evangelistic work from France and Switzerland, will give lessons on the Bible and its study, on elements of psychology, on the main trends of thought in Europe to-day and their encounter from the Christian and biblical point of view. The secretaries of the sponsoring Bible Societies will acquaint the students more thoroughly with the history, work and techniques of the Bible Societies. One particular feature in the teaching will be that each major lecture will be followed by a seminar, where the material of the course will again be thrashed out in a discussion in order to help the colporteurs, some of whom have little experience of academic teaching, to assimilate more easily the substance of their courses.

Since most of the candidates for this experimental course will be active colporteurs, each Society will make its own arrangements for the three months of practical work.

The B.F.B.S., the A.B.S. and the Société Evangélique de Genève have agreed to cover the cost of the course; the Societies sending students will be responsible for the cost of their board.

In the meantime a second Belgian-French colporteurs' retreat is being organised by the Belgian Bible Society, the French Bible Committee and the Geneva Society, this time in Le Nouvion (northern France) in the first week of October.

Secretaries of Scandinavian Societies meet.

The secretaries of the four Scandinavian Bible Societies met for one day in Roskilde, Denmark, in May, to discuss problems of common concern and to exchange information on the work of their Societies.

One of the suggestions made was that consideration should be given to the possibility of producing a film on the Bible, by using parts of the recent German film "The Book of books" (produced by the Hamburg Film Company). The matter is to be given close attention during the coming months.

Consideration was also given to the production of a Bible atlas and an illustrated Bible, and of a set of pictures for family Bible editions which could be used by all four Societies, and in the production of which they could all co-operate.

PERSONALIA

Mr. Francisco E. Estrello has been Associate Secretary of the Bible agency in Mexico since 1952. For more than a year before, he worked with the veteran secretary, Mr. H. T. Marroquin. This year Mr. Estrello has been promoted as secretary of the agency, in the place of Mr. Marroquin who is prevented for health reasons from carrying all the responsibilities of the post. Mr. Marroquin remains in the service of the agency as counsellor and continues to give his colleague the benefit of his wide experience. Mr. Estrello is also editor of the periodical "La Biblia en Mexico."

Dr. J. Harold Greenlee. Formerly New Testament Professor at Asbury Theological Seminary, having specialized in his doctoral work at Harvard University in Biblical and patristic Greek, Dr. Greenlee has joined the staff of the Translations Department of the American Bible Society as Research Associate, with primary responsibilities for problems relating to the preparation of the new Greek New Testament. The text is being sponsored by the A.B.S. in collaboration with other Societies.

Rev. Lai Peng-Tong, a pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Hongkong, has been appointed Assistant Secretary in the Hongkong Bible House agency, with responsibility for distribution and translation work.

Rev. E. H. Robertson has officially joined the staff of the United Bible Societies (on 1st May) and has set up his office in the premises of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. The study which Mr. Robertson is conducting, on "The Place and Use of the Bible in the Churches" is being carried out under a Co-operating Committee whose members are appointed by the U.B.S., the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council.

On the termination of his services as Assistant Head of Religious Broadcasting of the B.B.C., Mr. Robertson gave a talk on the B.B.C. TV programme on Sunday, 29th April, during the course of which he explained to viewers the nature of his new work and demonstrated the many helps which are published for those who wish to read the Bible intelligently and with devotion.

Mr. William A. Smalley. Mr. Smalley, a former missionary in Indo-China under the Christian and Missionary Alliance, has joined the staff of the Translations Department of the American Bible Society as Associate Secretary for Translations, with special responsibilities for the Far East and Africa. Mr. Smalley has been completing his work on his doctor's degree at Columbia University on special linguistic problems in the languages of south-east Asia. He is at present engaged in some research on various translation matters and preparing a volume on language and culture.

AUDIO-VISUAL AID NOTES

Cut-out Puzzle and Map for Children

The American Bible Society has prepared a cut-out colour puzzle called "John 3:16 Around the World." On single sheets of paper are drawings of people and scenes in other countries, and printed above or below each drawing is an actual reproduction of John 3:16 in the language spoken by the particular people who have been illustrated. Languages include Hebrew, Greek, Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Siamese and Russian scripts. Other languages include Tagalog, Malagasy, French, Navajo, Spanish, Aymara, Bulu, Portuguese and the language of the Gilbert Islands.

Each drawing can be coloured and cut out. Each one has a gummed back for pasting.

Also included in the John 3:16 project is a world map with squares around it and lines drawn from various countries to each square. Children can paste in the right drawing with a line that points to the appropriate country. Lines will not match if the drawing is in the wrong square.

Also suitable for use with the cut-outs and map is a new children's film strip entitled "Boys and Girls Around the World Share the Bible." This is a basic presentation of the fact that the Scriptures have been translated into more than 1,000 languages and that they are used by children around the world. It is of 30 frames, 35mm black and white, and includes a reading script. (The film strips are $1.00 and the cut-out puzzles 15 cents each. Ten cut-out puzzles and one film strip will be provided for $2.00.)

New process in film making

The American Bible Society reports that the Eastman Kodak Company will no longer manufacture the raw Kodachrome stock on which all the present A.B.S. colour pictures are printed. The new type of film which they are to use in future provides for a "colour intermediate" which may be compared with a black-and-white negative, and the use of a negative sound track for printing, instead of a positive as formerly. Two major improvements

are thus produced : (1) not only will there be an improvement in the colours, but the originals will be run through only once for each colour intermediate. An unknown number of distribution prints may be produced from each intermediate. Obviously this saves wear and damage to the originals, as formerly all circulation prints were produced directly from originals ; (2) the new stock provides for black-and-white sound track instead of one on Kodachrome emulsion. This will produce cleaner sound and will allow making a positive print directly from a negative, instead of involving a reversal process as in the past.

As soon as the new process is in operation, the necessary steps will be taken by the A.B.S. to produce the colour intermediates and the negative sound tracks so that their four active colour subjects may be kept in circulation indefinitely by prints and repair footage, prepared under the new system.

This new type of film involves a new process, requiring different laboratory equipment and it will therefore be impossible for the A.B.S. to have their old stock processed after the change is made. They have therefore ordered several hundred "heads" and "tails" which will be stored for future use as needed. Most damage occurs to circulation prints in the first 50 or 100 feet and the last 25 to 50 feet. The above repairs have been chosen so that they can be spliced with a minimum disturbance of sound and picture. Towards the end of the useful life of these prints, some will be "cannibalized" for other repairs so as to get the most possible use out of the present stock.

Films

"Woman of Samaria," a 16mm. black and white film belonging to the American Bible Society, has been withdrawn from circulation in the U.S.A. The sound track consists only of music and a voice reading the Scripture passage. The film runs for 14 minutes. The A.B.S. would be willing to send useable copies free of charge to any Societies that could make use of them. Requests should be sent, without delay, direct to the A.B.S.

Filmstrip on work in India

The Bible Society of India, Pakistan and Ceylon recently produced a filmstrip entitled "The Bible Society at work in India, Pakistan and Ceylon." It is in black and white and consists of 47 double frames. It is mainly intended for publicity work among Bible Society audiences in that area, but could also be suitably used in other countries.

The first section links the early history of the work in India with the forming of the B.F.B.S. and shows something of the work of William Carey and the growth of translations for the three countries during the first 150 years. The second shows one or two pictures of translators at work and gives an idea of the amount of work in this field that still remains to be done. The third section shows stages in the production of Scriptures at the Christian Literature Society Press at Bangalore and this is followed by a section on distribution, showing some of the various methods by which the Scriptures are offered to people. A further section, entitled "Learning from the Bible," deals with the use of the Bible by Church members and in evangelistic work and includes one or two literacy pictures. The final section, "Partners in the Work," shows how the Society is appealing to the Church in India to take its share in this work.

Copies, either in strip form or in 2in. by 2in. transparencies, can be obtained from the Central Office at Bangalore at Rs. 7/8/- a set.

Handbook on preparation of Audio-Visual Aids *

Mr. Henry H. Ragatz, of the American Bible Society, contributes the following notes :

Most " how to do it " books in the audio-visual field are in one of three general categories :

1. Step-by-step instructions for making simple materials (and sometimes even equipment) ; of greatest use to those of limited training and experience who nevertheless must produce exhibits, displays, posters or other items for communicating ideas through audio-visual media.

2. Comprehensive and specialized information, at the professional level, in one particular field or, occasionally, in several closely related areas.

3. More or less academic " textbooks " on the theories of audio-visual aids, usually with particular emphasis on their effective use in mass communication.

The recently revised edition of " Preparation and Use of Audio-Visual Aids "* happily combines all three. Its 381 pages contain more than 200 illustrations, and it covers briefly and effectively how to prepare and use every medium from simple paper cut-outs to a complete half-hour television programme. A majority of the material and examples relate to the educational field, but the authors make frequent reference to uses in business and religious work. Being written for the United States market, the appendix of available materials and supplies would be of little use to those in other countries. However, the principles involved in wise purchasing and maintenance of equipment are universally applicable.

Those of limited experience will benefit particularly from two unusually fine features : first, the simple explanation of basic principles of equipment, and second, the practical suggestions for preparation and effective use of many items which require only paint, scissors, paste and—of greatest importance—ideas. Those of wide experience, and anyone required to work in radio, television or motion pictures, will find many helpful and practical suggestions. Every reader should find his horizons widened by the variety of suggestions and the authoritative material on use.

* " Preparation and Use of Audio Visual Aids ", third edition, Haas and Packer, Prentice Hall, Inc., New York, $6.65.

A new venture in the Netherlands

A new way of trying to call people's attention to the Bible is being tried out by the Netherlands Bible Society. Though this method is still at an experimental stage, it is already possible to say something about it.

For years the Netherlands Bible Society has had a stand in the market for exchange of goods, where people get acquainted with all sorts of articles. During this exchange one can taste a cup of coffee Hag and admire the latest fashions. Fuel oil stoves and wireless sets are demonstrated. Official bodies like the post office, savings bank and the street safety campaign are also represented.

The Bible stand always draws people's attention because they do not expect such a thing in these surroundings. Bibles are sold and normally the sale is satisfactory. Of great importance are undoubtedly the talks with the visitors about the Bible.

Now, we try to induce people not only to buy a Bible but also to read it. Help is given by Mr. Coos van Hoboken who—on a small platform in front of the stand—presents three-minute sketches. He makes his appearance as a ragman, a jester, a sailor, a business man and a point duty policeman, and he lets the people see and hear how each of these characters comes to a renewed interest in the Bible. For example, the ragman empties his bag on the platform and shows the old junk he has collected during his walk through the streets of the town : a worn out pair of trousers, a children's game, a coat, rags—and among them an old Bible ! The only value of this book is its paper. But he discovers it has brass clasps. These have to come off. And while he tries to tear them off his attention is drawn by a verse in the Book of Revelation : "Behold I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5). This man, who is always occupied with old junk, thinks it an unintelligible but fascinating word. And it induces him to take that Bible home and to read it.

"All things new ? Is that also meant for me ? " With these words he leaves the platform, the Bible under his arm, his bag on his back, lost in thought. The remarkable thing is that those who have seen and heard this also experience a moment of reflection. They do not move on immediately to the following attraction. During the moment we offer them a folder. The outside shows a good drawing of the ragman with the Bible under his arm.

Exhibition van in France

Excellent results have been achieved in many towns of France through the use of a new exhibition van. The fixture, illustrated on this page, is arranged as follows :

On one side of the van awning is fixed, providing three sides of a tent, 2.50 m. in depth, the fourth side being open ; light tables are set up inside, on which various editions of the Scriptures are displayed. On the back panel a large map of the world is hung, with red ribbons connecting the different geographical areas, with copies of the Scriptures below in the languages spoken there.

A banner, the width of the exhibition, with large lettering "Exposition de la Bible" can be seen from a distance.

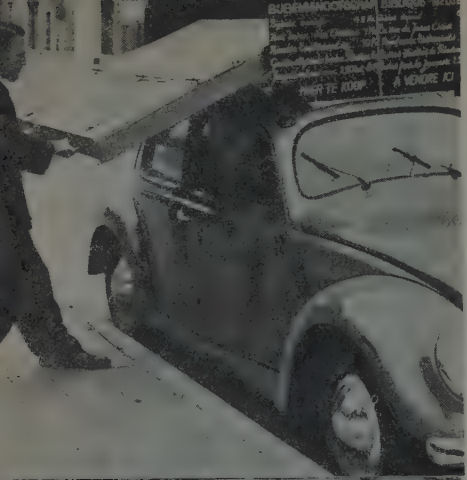
Experience in using the van has underlined various points : the necessary permission is sought from the local authorities for parking the van in a certain place for a definite period of time. If the application can be supported by a pastor or other well-known personality this facilitates matters.

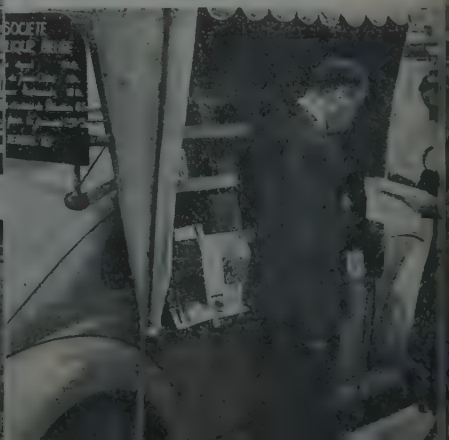
The local electricity board is also approached in order to get electric current fixed for illuminating the exhibition in the evenings and for running the pick-up which provides background music.

Time is saved by displaying posters, press notices and individual invitations announcing the exhibition or lectures on the Bible. Thus immediately the van is set up, people know what it is all about.

In general it is more worth-while to keep the van and exhibition in the same place for several days than to keep changing its position. People get used to seeing it and become more confident in it.

This kind of mobile exhibition can reach places where it would be impossible to arrange for a larger exhibition. This kind of display attracts people much more than the old kind of stall with books only, which they looked upon as another " trader " wanting to sell books. The tent exhibition on the other hand attracts them and they are interested in the exhibits and ask questions, often leading to profitable discussions and sometimes to the purchase of a Gospel, New Testament or Bible.





MOBILE SCRIPTURE DISPL
IN BELGIUM

Last year the colporteurs of the Bel Bible Society were motorised, to enable t to cover more effectively the area of country for which each was respons Some of the cars have been fitted up attachments which make it possible to up a display of Scriptures on the side of car. The operation is very simple. car is pulled up by the roadside, permis having previously been obtained from local authorities to set up the exhibit. colporteur then takes the display case f the roof of the car (see photo No. 1 ab fixes it on the supports provided, and the cover of the case which, when folde half, provides a roof for the display. Ca fittings on the two sides and front, w are quickly clipped on, protect the ex from sun and rain. Inside the case are l zontal slats, forming shelves on which Scriptures are set out. The whole oper takes only a few minutes.

This experiment has only recently put into force, but already the colpor report an encouraging response.

U.B.S. Photographic Library

At its meeting last year the Standing Committee of the U.B.S. agreed to the formation of a U.B.S. Photographic Library. This is now in process of being set up and is being administered by the British and Foreign Bible Society as a joint UBS/BFBS Photographic Library.

The photographs are filed under geographical areas, with the following main headings : Bible Society organisation ; Translation ; Production ; Distribution ; Bible-reading ; Background.

Complete lists of the photos are being prepared from which those engaged in Bible Society work may select and order any copies which they can make use of for exhibition, interpretation or publicity purposes.

As far as the work of the American Bible Society is concerned, a corresponding Library exists at their headquarters in New York, covering that Society's work in North and South America and other areas for which it is responsible.

A collection covering the work in countries on the continent of Europe is being made by the Netherlands Bible Society.

The four-page picture supplement included in this issue of the BULLETIN gives reproductions of a small selection of photos in the American Bible Society's Photographic Library. It is hoped in a later issue to produce a similar supplement of pictures from the Photographic Library in London.

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A new idea in collecting cards

The B.F.B.S. has produced an attractive collecting card to be used in raising money for the production of the Bible in Kamba. The card—the outside of which represents the cover of the Kamba Bible when printed—has attached to it ten stamps, reproducing in colour various scenes : a map showing the area in which Kamba is spoken, a view of the country, work in progress on the translation and proof-correcting, and the other stages leading up to the delivery of Scriptures in Africa.

This folder could be reproduced in other languages, and the B.F.B.S. would be prepared to arrange for the printing of the stamps for any Society which wished to place an order.

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WORLD CIRCULATION BY NATIONAL BIBLE SOCIETIES—1955

It should be pointed out that although the following circulation figures are given under countries, in most of these the work is not done by national Bible Scoieties but by the Agencies of the larger Societies. Even where the work is carried out by a national Society, the latter is in many cases supported from abroad.

Country	*Bibles*	*Testaments*	*Portions*	*Total*	1954 *Tot*
AFRICA					
North :					
Algeria & Tunis	3,035	5,289	31,521	39,845	33,401
Libya					963
Morocco	1,440	2,741	13,791	17,972	15,295
Union of S. Africa	218,581	98,545	139,852	456,980	125,366
East					
Angola	541	1,751	11,950	14,242	
Kenya	11,078	22,574	18,767	52,419	
Portuguese East Africa ...	378	819	22	2,219	
Tanganyika	2,172	3,255	308	5,737	
East, West and Central					
Miscellaneous	4,742	1,850	3,327	9,919	
Belgian Congo...	28,204	21,861	1,228	51,293	
French Cameroons	940	3,934	4,900	9,774	
French Equatorial	1,103	5,504	8,000	14,607	
Gambia...	38	12	4	54	
Gold Coast	50,292	954	12,168	63,414	
Ivory Coast		60	149	209	
Liberia	2,064	2,521	14,468	19,053	
Nigeria	86,089	4,628	21,036	111,753	
N. Rhodesia	7,060	12,400	6,840	26,300	24,257
S. Rhodesia	15,790	14,788	13,062	43,640	41,243
Nyasaland	1,493	1,014	427	2,934	3,077
Sierra Leone	2,531	303	1,757	4,591	
Uganda	12,581	1,103	4	13,688	
Madagascar, etc.					
Madagascar	10,588	4,097	3,324	18,009	83,075
Mauritius	8	368	100	476	
Sudan	1,063	10,464	6,016	17,543	42,148
ANTIGUA	189	—	—	189	2,487
ARABIA	Figures not received				2,793
ARGENTINA	61,373	52,205	974,165	1,187,743	1,114,543
AUSTRALIA	66,889	31,537	95,901	194,327	148,745
AUSTRIA	13,248	9,952	36,497	59,697	55,189
BAHAMAS	640	310	26	976	31,091
BELGIUM	7,000	6,656	42,889	56,545	28,620
BARBADOS	1,308	497	1,150	2,955	1,878
BOLIVIA	16,756	25,849	132,506	175,111	56,926
BERMUDA...	467	—	39	506	650

Country	*Bibles*	*Testaments*	*Portions*	*Total*	1954 *Total*
BRAZIL	97,448	85,414	2,363,339	2,546,201	1,550,932
BRITISH GUIANA	469	570	200	1,239	8,710
BURMA	6,418	6,481	22,369	35,268	31,287
CANADA	112,465	85,850	163,040	361,355	298,871
CANAL ZONE	1,286	1,711	8,594	11,591	16,063
CHILE	20,982	33,360	158,879	213,221	167,655
COLUMBIA	11,642	13,946	148,698	174,286	152,535
COSTA RICA	2,821	3,826	33,504	40,151	15,133
CUBA	13,011	21,066	344,051	378,128	317,975
CYPRUS	579	988	1,719	3,286	5,926
DENMARK	13,219	46,791*	1,927	61,937	73,813
DOMINICA...	67	26	—	93	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ...	4,492	6,688	52,337	63,517	82,593
DUTCH WEST INDIES... ...	1,392	1,183	789	3,364	—
ECUADOR...	3,269	3,572	73,490	80,331	77,437
EGYPT	8,045	12,404	63,068	83,517	82,755
EL SALVADOR	4,194	4,890	92,469	101,553	98,632
ENGLAND & WALES	318,697	59,091	409,801	787,589	668,757
ETHIOPIA...	3,509	1,150	4,803	9,462	24,373
FINLAND	63,378	43,835	7,452	114,665	105,389
FRANCE	41,429	44,914	102,022	188,365	204,192
FORMOSA	Included under Hongkong				79,519
GERMANY...	334,350	199,018	511,096	1,044,464	1,446,412
GREECE	5,999	104,313	73,467	183,779	137,763
GRENADA...	370	646	1,450	2,466	3 268
GUATEMALA	8,606	12,164	134,608	155,378	193,465
HAITI	4,739	3,001	500	8,240	62,010
HASHEMITE KINGDOM ...	7,366	12,625	13,096	33,087	29,671
HONDURAS	2,372	1,778	54,302	58,452	66,860
HONGKONG & MACAU ...	42,382	79,972	248,310	370,664	—
ICELAND	326	3,700	104	4,130	—
INDIA, PAKISTAN & CEYLON	77,652	69,473	793,400	940,525	840,800
INDO-CHINA	4,078	1,926	156,042	162,046	182,350
INDONESIA	10,582	77,736	69,527	157,845	113,438
IRAN	390	802	25,675	26,867	22,953
IRAQ & ARABIA	930	1,493	9,198	11,621	12,040
IRELAND	8,109	10,060	38,861	57,030	56,087
ISRAEL	11,642	610	3,423	15,675	7,985
ITALY	9,778	4,787	133,698	148,263	109,951
JAMAICA	13,266	2,875	14,221	30,362	70,441
JAPAN	87,918	468,637	1,303,745	1,860,300	1,305,256
KOREA	32,656	151,090	343,059	526,805	611,941
LIBERIA	2,064	2,521	14,468	19,053	—
MALAYA	9,744	6,381	85,089	101,214	90,764
MEXICO	38,035	18,732	329,970	386,737	253,787
MONSERRAT	106	150	—	256	660
NETHERLANDS	104,312	20,042	79,097	203,451	167,579

* Includes 521 Testaments for the Faroe Islands.

Country	*Bibles*	*Testaments*	*Portions*	*Total*	1954 *Total*
NEW ZEALAND	18,051	4,948	15,277	38,276	29,765
NICARAGUA	2,097	1,942	30,244	34,283	31,643
NORWAY	26,823	69,804	5,262	101,889	107,982
PACIFIC ISLANDS	2,460	6,565	2,001	11,026	1,235
PANAMA	2,549	1,342	16,902	20,793	34,148
PARAGUAY	4,472	5,744	123,446	133,662	78,040
PERU	11,651	8,154	80,412	100,217	126,209
PHILIPPINES	27,372	22,726	172,014	222,112	176,585
POLAND	18,817	11,644	152,949	183,410	50,126
PORTUGAL	5,646	6,963	140,348	152,957	182,196
PUERTO RICO	12,112	16,381	135,540	164,033	232,932
St. KITTS	483	600	—	1,083	3,020
St. LUCIA	40	195	80	315	607
St. VINCENT	396	321	28	745	5,568
SCOTLAND	28,098	14,828	188,777	231,703	69,935
SPAIN	2,426	4,206	20,885	27,517	21,834
SWEDEN	85,335*	30,733	3,582	119,650	102,516
SWITZERLAND	68,017	26,339	56,178	150,534	8,600
SYRIA & LEBANON	5,029	5,152	29,324	39,505	41,200
THAILAND	1,407	2,542	277,139	281,088	254,870
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO ...	1,040	890	1,701	3,631	46,011
TURKEY	1,942	1,526	8,567	12,035	15,291
U.S.A.	554,843	894,873	7,388,664	8,838,380	9,000,071
URUGUAY...	5,372	4,543	98,980	108,895	113,933
VENEZUELA	12,164	15,415	313,131	340,710	304,348
VIRGIN ISLANDS	177	154	9,000	9,331	6,609
YUGOSLAVIA	12,374	21,015	31,308	64,697	15,006
	2,956,834	3,113,978	19,322,341	25,393,161	23,036,671

* Includes 5,921 Childrens' Bibles.

1954 Figures	2,736,160	2,860,128	17,440,383	23,036,671	
1953 Figures	2,738,540	3,493,197	17,943,506	24,175,243	